

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF  
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

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## Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 7 February 2011

### TREASURY

#### Barlow Clowes International

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Barlow Clowes group of companies collapsed in 1988, following the misappropriation of investors' funds, which had been routed through approximately 50 related companies and entities in 16 jurisdictions. In the same year the Le Quesne report was published on regulatory functions in this matter. In 1989, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration published the report "The Barlow Clowes Affair", which criticised the Department of Trade and Industry for maladministration in the handling of Barlow Clowes.

The Government disputed the main findings in the report but made a decision to make substantial ex gratia payments to Barlow Clowes investors. This was based on an exceptional combination of circumstances and was not to be regarded a precedent. At the same time the Government gave a clear assurance to Parliament to try and recover the cost of the ex gratia payments. The Government subsequently paid £153 million in ex gratia payments to 14,250 investors who suffered a loss as a result of the collapse of the Barlow Clowes group.

Since 1988, successive Governments have followed a policy of vigorously pursuing all claims in relation to the Barlow Clowes companies which showed any prospect of cost-effective recovery, in order to reduce the cost to the taxpayer of the ex gratia payments scheme.

The court-appointed receivers and liquidators to the Barlow Clowes companies have now concluded the last outstanding litigation in this case and will take no further action.

On 9 December 2010 the Supreme Court of Gibraltar granted the release of the receivers and liquidators of the various offshore portfolios previously promoted by Barlow Clowes International Limited, with effect from 6 January 2011. This brings to an end the Barlow Clowes affair.

As at 19 January 2011, from the recovery of assets and proceeds of legal action, the Government have recovered £120 million and £36 million was recovered and paid to investors. In total the investors, including the Government under their assigned rights, have been repaid £156.5 million, net of all costs.

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Local Government Finance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): Further to my statement on Monday 31 January on the local government finance settlement, I am announcing that

I will be making a technical change to the provisional formula grant allocations for 2012-13 increasing the overall total for formula grant by £11.3 million.

I have today placed in the Library of the House revised tables which reflect this change. Copies are available from the Vote Office and should be referred to in place of those issued on Monday 31 January which related to the 2012-13 settlement. All local authorities have been notified directly today of this change.

### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

#### Plutonium Stocks

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will publish on 7 February a consultation on the long-term management of UK-owned separated civil plutonium.

Currently the UK's plutonium is stored in facilities designed to meet high standards of safety and security, however there is a need to consider how it should be managed in the long term. This consultation sets out for public scrutiny Government's preliminary view on the long-term management of the UK's plutonium. In particular the consultation covers the security and proliferation sensitivities associated with continued storage of plutonium, and also how we can best manage it in the interests of future generations.

Copies of the consultation have been placed in Libraries of both Houses or can be obtained from the DECC website.

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/open/open.aspx>

#### Feed-in Tariffs

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): I am today announcing the start of the first review of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme for small-scale low-carbon electricity generation.

Decentralised renewables are vital to green growth and the FITs scheme has proved highly successful at stimulating growth, driving innovation, creating jobs and cutting carbon.

Since the scheme began last year more than 21,000 installations have registered to date. The vast majority of these are domestic installations, including solar panels, wind turbines and micro-hydro installations. The scheme is working well. The take-up of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels under FITs has been a success with 20,000 installations now registered. However there is room for improvement. I am concerned about the impact of super-size solar installations. I am also disappointed at the lack of farm-based anaerobic digestion plants currently accessing FITs.

In light of the economic and fiscal situation, inherited by the coalition, it is imperative that we take a more responsible and efficient approach to public subsidy, including where this subsidy is funded through energy

bills. Specifically, the spending review committed to improving the efficiency of FITs and finding £40 million of savings, around 10%, in 2014-15.

Since the spending review, I have become increasingly concerned about the prospect of large-scale solar PV projects under FITs, which was not fully anticipated in the original scheme and could, if left unchecked, take a disproportionate amount of available funding or even break the cap on total funding. Several large solar installations have already received planning permission. Industry projections indicate there could be many more in the planning system. In light of this uncertainty, and the risk that such schemes could push FITs uptake off trajectory and may make the spending review savings difficult, I have decided to end the potential for damaging speculation and bring forward the review of the scheme to look at ways of correcting these early teething problems.

I recognise that industry needs a long-term plan for investment in which it can have full confidence. Today I am announcing a comprehensive evidence-based review of the FITs scheme and, to provide further certainty to the renewables industry, I can confirm that we also hope to publish next month measures to support renewable heat within the envelope agreed at spending review.

The FITs review will:

- Assess all aspects of the scheme including tariff levels, administration and eligibility of technologies;

- Be completed by the end of the year, with tariffs remaining unchanged until April 2012 (unless the review reveals a need for greater urgency);

- Fast-track consideration of large-scale solar projects (over 50kW) with a view to making any resulting changes to tariffs as soon as practical, subject to consultation and parliamentary scrutiny as required by the Energy Act 2008.

Alongside the fast-track review of large-scale solar PV, we will also undertake a short study into the take-up of FITs for farm-based anaerobic digestion plants. Only two such projects have been accredited so far and by this point at least six were expected. We are looking again at the tariff rates inherited from the previous Administration to see if they are enough to make farm-based anaerobic digestion worthwhile.

Broad terms of reference for the review are available from [www.decc.gov.uk/FITS](http://www.decc.gov.uk/FITS) and we are seeking views on specific issues to be considered. The Government will not act retrospectively and any changes to generation tariffs implemented as a result of the review will only affect new entrants into the FITs scheme. Installations which are already accredited for FITs at the time will not be affected.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Antisocial Behaviour

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire):** Today I am launching, "More effective responses to anti-social behaviour", which sets out the key findings of the Home Office's review of the current tools and powers to deal with antisocial behaviour, as well as proposals to simplify and improve them.

Reducing the everyday crime and disorder that is described as antisocial behaviour—from vandalism and graffiti to drug dealing and harassment—is a high priority for the public, and for the Government. It is corrosive, blights communities and neighbourhoods and has a huge impact on the quality of life of millions of people. The unprecedented response by the public to the launch of street-level crime information earlier this month illustrates just how concerned they are about the issue.

Our aim is to ensure that where a community or victim is suffering antisocial behaviour—particularly the sort of targeted, persistent harassment apparent in a number of high-profile recent cases—the police and other local agencies take the problem seriously, take the necessary steps to stop it permanently, and protect vulnerable victims.

Our reforms to local crime and policing will take us some way towards meeting that objective. The introduction of elected police and crime commissioners, street-level crime information and regular neighbourhood beat meetings will make police forces more accountable for the way they deal with the issues that matter to local people. Helen Newlove is highlighting ways the public can get involved in making their communities safer. And we announced earlier in January that eight police forces are, with local partners, trialling a new approach to handling calls from the public that will ensure repeat and vulnerable victims of antisocial behaviour get a better service.

However, the police and other professionals also need an effective toolkit to deal with antisocial behaviour; one that is quick, practical, easy to use and provides a real deterrent to perpetrators.

Our review of the current tools and powers found that there are too many of them, with practitioners tending to focus on the measures they are most familiar with. And the bureaucracy and cost associated with some of the court orders (especially the antisocial behaviour order) may encourage some practitioners to use informal or voluntary tools to deal with serious incidents instead. At the same time, the growing number of people who breach their ASBO suggests the potentially serious consequences are still not deterring a persistent minority from continued antisocial behaviour. Finally, the tools that were designed to help perpetrators deal with the underlying causes of their antisocial behaviour are rarely used.

In response we propose a radical streamlining. Instead of providing a specific tool to deal with every problem, we aim to introduce a handful of faster, more flexible and more effective tools that allow practitioners to protect victims and communities and get to the root of the problem. Specifically, we propose to:

- repeal the ASBO and other court orders for antisocial individuals, and replace them with two new orders that bring together restrictions on future behaviour and support to address underlying problems—a criminal behaviour order that can be attached to a criminal conviction, and a crime prevention injunction that can quickly stop antisocial behaviour before it escalates;

- ensure there are powerful incentives on perpetrators to stop behaving antisocially—for example, by making breach of the new orders grounds for eviction from social housing;

- bring together many of the existing tools for dealing with place-specific antisocial behaviour, from persistent litter or noisy neighbours, to street drinking and crack houses, into a community protection order;

bring together existing police dispersal powers into a single police power to direct people away from an area for antisocial behaviour;

make the informal and out-of-court tools for dealing with antisocial behaviour more rehabilitative and restorative; and introduce a community trigger that gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent antisocial behaviour.

Copies of the consultation document will be placed in the House Library. The consultation, which runs until 3 May, is open to everyone to have their say and details can be found on the Home Office website at [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/asb-consultation](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/asb-consultation).

#### **PRIME MINISTER**

**Abdelbaset al-Megrahi**

**The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron):** On 20 July 2010 I asked the Cabinet Secretary to conduct a review of Government papers relating to the release of the Lockerbie bomber. The purpose of this review was to

ensure that all paperwork that could be published was published in order to address as fully as possible the continued concerns that were being expressed over this release, including from victims' families.

The Cabinet Secretary has completed that review. I have placed his report and the further papers that are being released in the Libraries of both Houses.

The review assessed all material across Government. The Cabinet Secretary was assisted in this task by the former Information Commissioner and current Chairman of the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council, Richard Thomas. He has provided independent validation of this process and confirms the report and the documents now being published are consistent with all the materials he has reviewed and provide a fair and accurate account of events.

Under the convention covering papers of a previous administration, the Cabinet Secretary consulted former Ministers and the former Prime Minister about publication of additional papers.

All decisions on the declassification and publication of papers belonging to the previous Administration were taken by the Cabinet Secretary. He is clear that any information not published does not alter or contradict his report in any way.

# Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 8 February 2011

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill):** I would like to inform the House that I have today placed in the Library of the House a corrected table showing annual income from parking charges for each local authority across the years 2005-06 to 2008-09.

This table supersedes the table placed in the Library in response to parliamentary question 302116 in the 2009-10 session. Question 302116 was tabled by the hon. Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck) and answered by the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) on 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 66W. Unfortunately investigations have revealed that there were miscalculations in the figures provided in the original table.

I am sorry for these errors and assure you that steps have been taken to enhance the quality assurance of relevant routine checks of answers to parliamentary questions to minimise the possibility of such an occurrence being repeated.

## TRANSPORT

### Search and Rescue Helicopter Procurement

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond):** On 16 December I and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced that information had come to light regarding the preferred bid in the search and rescue helicopter competition which required clarification.

In mid-December, the preferred bidder in the SAR-H competition, Soteria, voluntarily came forward to inform the Government of irregularities regarding the conduct of their bid team which had only then recently come to light. The irregularities included access by one of the consortium members, CHC Helicopter, to commercially

sensitive information regarding the joint MOD/DFT project team's evaluations of industry bids and evidence that a former member of that project team had assisted the consortium in its bid preparation, contrary to explicit assurances given to the project team.

Since December, our two Departments have been working with Soteria to understand better the situation and its implications for the procurement process. In addition, the Ministry of Defence police are investigating how the commercially sensitive information came to be in the possession of the bidder. It would be inappropriate to comment further on the details of the investigation until it has finished.

However, even without the outcome of that investigation, the Government have sufficient information to enable them to conclude that the irregularities that have been identified were such that it would not be appropriate to proceed with either the preferred bid or with the current procurement process.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Office for Nuclear Regulation

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** The Government intend to bring forward legislation to create a new independent statutory body outside of the HSE to regulate the nuclear power industry. The new statutory corporation would be known as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and would take on the relevant functions currently carried out by the Health and Safety Executive and the Department for Transport.

The ONR would be a new independent regulator, formally responsible in law for delivering its regulatory functions. The creation of the ONR would consolidate civil nuclear and radioactive transport safety and security regulation in one place. The proposal will not affect the current regulatory requirements or standards with which industry must comply, and the vast majority of the costs of the regulator would continue to be recovered in charges from operators in the nuclear industry rather than funded by the public purse. Additional organisational costs will be entirely met by the nuclear industry.

Pending the legislation, the Health and Safety Executive is taking steps to establish the ONR as a non-statutory body from 1 April 2011, signalling our commitment to securing an appropriately resourced and responsive regulator for the future challenges of the nuclear sector. The Government will review the functions and processes of the interim body in order to inform their planned legislation.



# Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 9 February 2011

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Tax

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):** On 13 December, I indicated that when the House debated the final local government finance report I would set out council tax capping principles that will apply to local authorities' budgets for 2011-12. I am therefore now informing the House that I will consider an authority to have set an excessive increase if:

(a) the amount calculated by the authority as its budget requirement for 2011-12 is more than 92.5% of—

(i) the authority's alternative notional amount; or  
(ii) where no such amount has been specified for the authority, the authority's budget requirement for 2010-11<sup>1</sup>; and

(b) the amount calculated by the authority as its band D council tax for 2011-12 is more than 3.5% greater than the same amount calculated for 2010-11 (except see below).

Different principles will apply to the Greater London Authority (GLA), and to the councils of Central Bedfordshire and Shropshire. The reasons for this are—

in the case of the GLA, because the authority calculates its council tax in a different way from other authorities<sup>2</sup>, and  
in the case of Central Bedfordshire and Shropshire, because the authorities set their basic amounts of council tax for 2010-11 under part 4 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008<sup>3</sup> and may do so again for 2011-12.

My officials will write to these three authorities separately with further technical details about how the principles applicable to them will operate. However, I can confirm that the policy aim of the capping principles for 2011-12 is the same for all authorities and that the principles for the GLA, Central Bedfordshire and Shropshire are designed to ensure that appropriate comparisons can be made between the band D council tax set by those authorities in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

I am this year announcing these principles before the dates by which authorities have to set their budgets. This contrasts with the approach of the previous Government, which always required authorities to wait and see whether the council tax they had set would be considered excessive by reference to principles not decided until after the deadlines for setting their budgets had passed.

Moving forward, the Government intend to end the capping regime and replace it with a more democratic and localist measure to allow local residents to veto excessive council tax rises via a local referendum.

<sup>1</sup>Alternative notional amounts apply to all classes of authority except for fire and rescue authorities.

<sup>2</sup>Unlike other authorities, the GLA calculates two basic amounts of council tax; one under section 88(2) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 and one under section 89(3) of that Act.

<sup>3</sup>SI 2008/3022. Central Bedfordshire and Shropshire were established on 1 April 2009. In order to equalise council tax more fairly in their areas, part 4 of SI 2008/3022 enables the authorities to calculate different basic amounts of council tax for their predecessor areas for up to five financial years. By contrast all other authorities (except the GLA) must calculate only one basic amount of council tax.

### Research Projects

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill):** Today the Government are publishing a group of reports presenting the findings from research projects commissioned by the previous Administration.

There is a significant backlog of unpublished reports that were produced by the previous Government and over the next few months we will be publishing these reports in groups themed on a particular topic.

The reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements. We are publishing these documents in the interests of transparency and as part of our freedom of information commitment to publish the results of all commissioned research. For transparency, all completed work is being published regardless of format or robustness.

The five reports published today represent the findings from three research projects at a total cost of £191,000, excluding VAT. These findings cover fire-related topics.

The Government are concerned to ensure their research delivers best possible value for money for the taxpayer and that sums expended are reasonable in relation to the public policy benefits obtained. DCLG has put in place scrutiny and challenge processes for future research.

All new projects will be scrutinised to ensure the methodology is sound and that all options for funding are explored at an early stage. This includes using existing work from other organisations, joint funding projects with other Departments or organisations and taking work forward in-house.

#### Cost of Fire

(i) *The Economic Cost of Fire: Estimates for 2006*—This report provides an estimate of the cost of fire to the economy in England in 2006.

(ii) *The Economic Cost of Fire: Estimates for 2008*—This report was produced by DCLG researchers. The spreadsheet model developed for the 2006 estimates was used to update the cost of fire estimates to 2008.

#### Retained Duty System

(iii) *Survey of Retained Duty System (RDS) personnel, former staff and FRS managers—Part A*—A survey of serving and former RDS personnel. This is the first part of a report providing findings of a survey of serving and former RDS personnel in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

(iv) *A Survey of Retained Duty System (RDS) personnel, former staff and FRS managers—Part B*—A survey of RDS managers. This is the second part of the report and provides the findings of an organisational survey completed by RDS managers from fire and rescue services in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



*Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) major incidents risk assessment module*

(v) *FSEC major incidents risk assessment module: background research*—This report details the work carried out to specify a method of assessing the risk from different types of major incident in a way that could be incorporated into the FSEC toolkit software and to provide suitable risk factors based on data available at the time of the work.

These reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements and are not a reflection of the current Government's policies and priorities. DCLG is publishing these reports in the interests of transparency.

Copies of these reports are available on the DCLG website. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

#### **NORTHERN IRELAND**

##### **Counter-Terrorism Legislation Review**

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson):** Following the counter-terrorism legislation review the Home Secretary decided to replace section 44

of the Terrorism Act 2000 with a more tightly circumscribed power. Consistent with those changes, I have decided to make a similar amendment to a power of stop and search in Northern Ireland.

I intend to amend the power to stop and search a person without reasonable suspicion contained in paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 to the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007. In future, prior authorisation by a senior police officer, confirmed by the Secretary of State, will be required before the power to search a person without reasonable suspicion to ascertain whether he has munitions unlawfully with him or wireless apparatus with him can be exercised by a police officer. I will also create a new power for police officers to search for such items with reasonable suspicion. In due course I will exercise the power in section 34 of the 2007 Act to make a code of practice governing the exercise of these powers.

Powers of stop and search for the military under the 2007 Act will not be amended.

Changes to the legislation will be brought forward in the protection of freedoms Bill, which will be introduced into Parliament shortly. Robert Whalley, the reviewer of the operation of these powers appointed under section 40 of the 2007 Act, is aware of the changes I plan to make.

## Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 10 February 2011

### BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

#### Fair Access to Higher Education

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have today written to the Director of Fair Access setting our expectations about how he should approach the approval and monitoring of new access agreements for higher education institutions. This updates a draft guidance letter that was published on 7 December. A copy of today's letter is in the Libraries of both Houses.

The guidance to the director sets out significantly increased expectations for the priority that institutions should be giving to fair access and widening participation, focusing more sharply on the outcomes of outreach and other activities, and less on the inputs and processes. In particular the Government believe that progress over the last few years in securing fair access to the most selective universities has been inadequate, and that much more determined action now needs to be taken.

From September 2012, no institution will be able to levy a graduate contribution above £6,000 without an approved access agreement. Institutions will make their own proposals for the measures they will take and the ambitions they will set for themselves. The director will take his own, independent decisions about each institution's application.

The Deputy Prime Minister has also announced today further details about the national scholarship programme. This is being published today on the Higher Education Funding Council for England's website, and I am placing copies in the Libraries of both Houses.

The national scholarship programme will provide financial assistance to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Each eligible student will receive a benefit of not less than £3,000. All universities charging over £6,000 graduate contribution will be required to participate in the national scholarship programme and will commit more of their own resources towards helping to improve fair access. The Government will contribute £50 million in financial year 2012-13; £100 million in 2013-14; and £150 million from 2014-15.

#### Insolvency Practitioner Regulation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): Everyone who is affected by insolvency, whether they be employees, consumers who have lost deposits or suppliers who have not been paid should have every confidence that insolvency procedures operate fairly and that insolvency practitioners deliver the best possible outcome in what are often

difficult and challenging circumstances. In response to the OFT market study into corporate insolvency practitioners, I am today launching a consultation in respect of policy proposals intended to improve confidence in the insolvency regime and lead to better outcomes for those affected by insolvency proceedings.

These proposals are in line with the policies of this Government to drive balanced and sustainable growth, improve regulation and build a stronger economy. A dynamic economy, where it is easy to start and grow a business, needs effective and efficient insolvency mechanisms which return as much as is fair and possible to creditors when businesses fail.

The consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the regulatory framework for insolvency practitioners (IP's) and amend some of the technical legislative provisions applicable to companies in administration and liquidation.

A key proposal is the introduction of an independent complaints body to handle complaints about IP's, including complaints about their fees. While creditors can, at the moment, refer complaints about fees to the courts, this is cumbersome and costly. The new proposals would cut the cost of making a complaint and, also, would encourage unsecured creditors to hold IP's to account for the fees they charge. Although the OFT study focused solely on the corporate insolvency market, the benefit of these proposals would extend to personal insolvency cases.

Further information, along with a copy of the consultation document, can be found on The Insolvency Service's website at [www.insolvency.gov.uk](http://www.insolvency.gov.uk).

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): The Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk), and I would like to inform the House that today we have written to the proposed York and North Yorkshire and Enterprise M3 local enterprise partnerships inviting them to put their governance arrangements in place.

Local enterprise partnerships see a real power shift away from central Government and quangos and towards local communities and the local businesses who really understand the barriers to growth in their areas. This announcement brings the total number of partnerships so far invited to put their governance arrangements in place to 30. We will continue to work with other areas with a view to establishing further local enterprise partnerships across England.

#### Park Homes

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I announced on 14 July 2010 that I intended to bring forward in Parliament secondary legislation that would transfer most of the functions of county courts under the Mobile Homes Act 1983 to residential property tribunals. The aim of the transfer of the jurisdiction is

to provide residents of park homes and the owners with a level playing field in the resolution of disputes. This will be achieved by providing access to a dedicated, low-cost specialist (housing) tribunal, which can deal with cases quickly and without the parties needing to be legally represented. The necessary statutory instrument was laid on 31 January and subject to it receiving approval of both Houses of Parliament will come into force on 30 April 2011.

I am also today announcing my intention to consult on a further package of measures that could improve and modernise the licensing regime that applies to caravan and park home sites to enable local authorities to more effectively monitor and enforce licences and, therefore, better protect the many thousands of older households who live in this sector. I intend to consult on giving local authorities powers to charge site owners for their licensing functions and services instead of these being funded by the taxpayer or not provided at all to a satisfactory standard because authorities do not have the resources to do so. I also intend to consult on enabling the courts to impose higher fines for the most serious breaches of licence conditions, and on giving authorities a more effective means of carrying out emergency safety-critical works at the owner's expense where the site owner has refused to do the work himself. I believe these reforms to site licensing will modernise the regime and make it more effective in delivering its objective of ensuring that sites are safe and properly managed.

I am also concerned about what appears to be abuse by some site owners of their role in approving the purchaser when a resident wishes to sell his park home in the open market. It seems clear that a small minority of site owners will routinely block sales for their own financial gain. I intend to consult on measures which would aim to eliminate this unacceptable practice and extend the role of the residential property tribunal in the approval process.

I intend to carry out a public consultation on these proposals in the spring.

## HEALTH

### Services for Adults with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I am today formally launching the Government's response to last year's report "Raising our sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities" produced by Professor Jim Mansell of the Tizard Centre, Kent. This report is a very valuable contribution to the debate on how we can ensure that people with highly complex needs can be supported to live as independently as possible and as included and valued members of society.

The Government have made clear their commitment to improving the health and well-being of all people with learning disabilities, including those who have profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. That is why we support this report and have taken on board its central message that the major obstacles to improving outcomes for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities are prejudice, discrimination and low expectations.

As our "Vision for Adult Social Care, Capable Communities and Active Citizens" made clear we were looking to empower service users and those who care for them and to enable a more personalised, preventative service focused on delivering the best outcomes for people who need support, enabling people to live as independently as possible.

The revised "Recognised, Valued and Supported: Next Steps for the Carers Strategy" outlines the priorities over the next four years to ensure carers get the support they need. "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" White Paper set out our long-term vision for the NHS which puts people at the heart of everything the NHS does focuses on continuously improving the outcome of their healthcare.

The response to "Raising our Sights" responds to the report's 33 detailed recommendations. In addition, Professor Mansell set out five key conclusions:

adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities are a relatively small, easily identified group of people with undeniable needs for care and support. Despite these needs, they and their families have often not been provided with services to adequately meet them;

the "personalisation agenda" expressed in Government policy does appear to provide a better quality of life for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities and their families. Continued progress in widening access to these kinds of services will enable more people to benefit;

there are a number of obstacles to wider implementation to which Government and other agencies should attend;

shortage of resources may influence the speed with which the recommendations of this report can be implemented but should not change the direction of policy and practice; and learning disability partnership boards and voluntary bodies will have an even more important role in future in scrutinising services and giving voice to people with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities and their families. Government and regulatory bodies should take account of the likely effect of their work on the quality of life of adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities.

The Government accept and support these conclusions.

"Raising our sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities" and the Government's response have been placed in the Library. Copies of both documents are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

## TRANSPORT

### Search and Rescue Helicopter Procurement (Correction to Written Ministerial Statement)\*

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): On 16 December I and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced that information had come to light regarding the preferred bid in the search and rescue helicopter competition which required clarification.

In mid-December, the preferred bidder in the SAR-H competition, Soteria, voluntarily came forward to inform the Government of irregularities regarding the conduct of their bid team which had only then recently come to light. The irregularities included access by one of the consortium members, CHC Helicopter, to commercially sensitive information regarding the joint MOD/DFT

project team's evaluations of industry bids and evidence that a former member of that project team had assisted the consortium in its bid preparation, contrary to explicit assurances given to the project team.

Since December, our two Departments have been working with Soteria to understand better the situation and its implications for the procurement process. In addition, the Ministry of Defence police are investigating how the commercially sensitive information came to be in the possession of the bidder. It would be inappropriate to comment further on the details of the investigation until it has finished.

However, even without the outcome of that investigation, the Government have sufficient information to enable them to conclude that the irregularities that have been identified were such that that it would not be appropriate to proceed with either the preferred bid or with the current procurement process.

The Department for Transport and the Ministry of Defence will now consider the potential procurement options to meet future requirements for search and rescue helicopters in the United Kingdom, including options to maintain continuity of search and rescue helicopter cover until new longer-term arrangements can be put in place.

We will make a further announcement once a way forward has been agreed.

*\*(Official Report, 8 February 2011; Vol. 523, c. 7WS-8WS)*

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Equality Act (Definition of Disability)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller):** I am today submitting to Parliament the draft revised "Guidance on matters to

be taken into account when determining questions relating to the definition of disability".

This guidance is primarily for adjudicating bodies (such as courts and tribunals) when they are determining whether a person is a disabled person for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 (EA). These bodies are required by the EA to take account of any aspect of the guidance which appears to them to be relevant when deciding whether a person is disabled for the purpose of the EA.

The EA prohibits discrimination that occurs in relation to a protected characteristic in a range of circumstances, including in access to: services and public functions, premises, work, education, associations and transport. One of the protected characteristics is disability, which is defined in the EA and regulations made under it.

Although the definition of disability in the EA is similar to that which applied for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), the EA has simplified that definition. Unlike the DDA it does not require a disabled person to show how their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities affects one of a list of capacities, such as mobility, speech, or the ability to understand.

Existing guidance was produced under the DDA. That guidance has been updated to reflect the definition of disability which now applies for the purposes of the EA. The revised text was subject to a consultation exercise between 9 August and 31 October 2010. A report on the Government's response to the consultation has been produced and I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am laying a copy of the draft revised guidance before each House. Subject to parliamentary approval, I aim to bring this revised guidance into force on 1 May 2011.



## Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 11 February 2011

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Local Authority Publicity

**The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps):** Last year I consulted local government and other interested parties on a proposed new code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. On 27 January the Communities and Local Government Select Committee issued a report on the proposals. Having now carefully considered the responses received from the consultation and the Select Committee's report, I am today laying before Parliament a draft "Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity". If Parliament approves the draft, the Secretary of State will issue the code which will replace, in relation to English local authorities and certain other bodies, the existing code of practice.

The new code sets out the principles for local authority publicity. It makes clear that principal councils should not publish newspapers more frequently than quarterly and that such publications should only include material directly related to local services. It provides for a more flexible regime for parish councils given parish newsletters are not in competition with local newspapers.

The new code also makes clear that councils should not spend taxpayers' money to lobby Government through private sector lobbyists or other forms of publicity.

I have also placed a copy of the Government's response to the consultation and the Select Committee's report in the Library of the House.

### DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

#### Government Response to the House of Lords Constitution Committee's Report (Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill)

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper):** The House of Lords Constitution Committee published its report on the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill on 11 November 2010, immediately prior to Committee stage in this House.

I am pleased to inform the House that I have today laid before Parliament the Government's response to the Committee's report (Cm 8016). Copies are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

### EDUCATION

#### Building Schools for the Future

**The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove):** Mr Justice Holman has today handed down his judgment on the judicial review brought against me by Luton borough council and Nottingham city council; Waltham Forest London borough council; Newham London borough council; Kent county council; and Sandwell Metropolitan borough council, following my decision in July 2010 to cancel Building Schools for the Future projects in their areas.

The judge said that he was

"absolutely clear that the decision is not open to legal challenge on a discrete ground of irrationality, however that argument is developed or put";

and he agreed that nothing which the Department for Education or Partnerships for Schools had done in respect of these local authorities went

"so far as to create a substantive legitimate expectation that any given project would definitely proceed".

These were the substantive points in this case and I am delighted that the judge has ruled in my favour.

There were further, procedural, grounds on which the claimants made their case, in particular on a duty to consult; and on the duty to have due regard to equalities duties.

I acknowledge that, on these procedural grounds, the judge has ruled in favour of the claimants. In essence, his view is that my consultation with 14 local authorities (in relation to 32 sample schools) and a further 119 individual academy projects on their particular circumstances, did not go far enough and that I should have included the six claimant authorities in my consultation. And he judges that I should have had rigorous regard to equalities considerations in reaching my decision.

The judge has not ordered a reinstatement of funding for any BSF project. Nor has he ordered me to pay compensation to any of the claimants. Instead, he has concluded that I

"must now, after giving each of them a reasonable opportunity to make representations, reconsider [my] decision in so far as it affects the claimants and each of the projects in relation to which they have claimed, with an open mind, paying due regard to any representations they may make, and rigorously discharging [my] equalities duties".

I am happy to do so. He has made clear that provided I discharge my duties in this way,

"the final decision on any given school or project still rests with [me]";

and that I

"may save all, some, a few, or none".

He concluded by saying that

"no one should gain false hope from this decision".

The judge has made clear that any other local authority, outside of the claimant group, would be far too late to apply for a separate judicial review on this matter.

My Department will shortly make contact with the claimant local authorities to set out a process through which they can make their representations to me.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Forestry Commission England (2011-12 Asset Sales Programme)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** As in previous years, the selection criteria for land in the Forestry Commission England's forthcoming assets sales programme were published on 27 January. In the light of the Government commitment to increase protection for access and public benefit in our woodlands, the criteria for these sales will be reviewed so that protections are significantly strengthened following the inadequate measures that were applied to sales under the previous Administration. Pending this review, no individual woodland site will be put on the market.

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 24 January.

The presidency presented its work programme highlighting its priorities as CAP reform, the dairy file, the quality package, and reaching agreement on the 1,100 pages of Lisbon alignment legislation. It intended to complete the evaluation of the EU animal welfare policy, and make progress on cloning. It would also make efforts to reach a binding agreement on forests at the Oslo Ministerial at the back end of its presidency. The debate on CFP reform would be a further central feature.

The Commission presented its communication on the health of honey bees outlining the key issues and the main actions that the Commission intended to take to address them. Member states supported the communication and called for further evidence on the possible causes of the increased bee mortalities. The UK welcomed the work, and drew attention to the action being taken in the UK to address bee health problems, and drew attention to recent evidence on possible involvement of neonicotinoid insecticides.

The debate on CAP reform was prepared on the basis of a presidency questionnaire exploring links to the delivery of environmental public goods, green growth and innovation, and agriculture's contribution to addressing climate security concerns. All member states agreed with the Commission that the objective was sound but most delegations wished to examine the relative contribution of the two CAP pillars to the Commission's objective. A number suggested that pursuing green outcomes through pillar 1, either in the form of a top-up payments for areas with natural handicaps or by greening, was inadvisable and would result in administrative burdens. The UK called for additional resources for pillar 2, which could be better targeted at environmental objectives than pillar 1. Others, such as France, were more open to the proposal of a green pillar 1, provided it was mandatory and simple. A large number of member states insisted that the Commission ensure that its proposals delivered on the CAP simplification agenda.

The Commission stressed that the three objectives it had identified in its communication—food security, sustainable management of resources and territorial balance—were interlinked and that a green pillar 1 was necessary in order to achieve EU-wide environmental outcomes from agriculture. The Commission also responded to widespread concerns about CAP simplification, noting that an ad hoc expert group had been established, and would act as a filter for CAP reform proposals. CAP debate would continue at the February Council with a discussion of the Commission's third objective for CAP reform, territorial balance.

The first item under any other business was the UK presentation of the foresight report, published by the chief scientific adviser, on the future of food and farming. The UK stressed that the report was an important lens through which to study the Commission's CAP reform proposals. The UK also noted that an event would be organised in Brussels to disseminate and discuss the report's findings.

Belgium, with the support of Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Austria, Slovenia, Portugal, Finland, Romania, Cyprus, Spain, Malta and Hungary, rehearsed its concerns about a crisis in the pigmeat sector, calling once more for the introduction of private storage aid (PSA), and the creation of a high-level group. Taking a more accommodating line than previously, the Commission agreed to open PSA but remained reluctant to raise expectations in the sector by establishing a high-level group. It would continue with plans for discussion in the enlarged advisory group, urging the presidency to discuss the group's findings at SCA in April, with a view to recommending an appropriate policy response to the Commission in advance of its adopting CAP reform proposals.

The Commission gave a brief tour of the situation on international markets. It noted on the DDA negotiations that there was a positive mood in WTO circles, for attempting once more to conclude the round. The Commission also put forward a number of suggestions for addressing price volatility in the context of the French presidency of the G20. Instruments were needed to address price volatility, as experienced showed that prices remained volatile even where there was no shortage of physical stocks. The Commission wanted more transparency in terms of market data, improved quality of data, and a forum for discussion. It wanted to have more reliability about the availability of emergency stocks, and wanted to press for improved international governance of crises and increased investment in agricultural research. A communication on commodities, dealing with some of the issues, would be adopted by the Commission in the coming days.

France noted that a number of the issues would be picked up at the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting 22-23 June, which would lead to the adoption of an action plan at the Cannes Ministerial at the end of the French presidency.

Germany provided an update on the dioxin situation. It estimated that 2,256 tonnes of feed fat had been contaminated, and said that 589 holdings were currently under restriction. Germany also presented its 10-point action plan to improve consumer protection in the animal feed chain, and called for certain actions to be considered at EU level.

The Commission clarified that the current system had worked and that any further measures should remain proportionate. The measures under consideration were the compulsory approval of establishments manufacturing, treating and marketing fats, the strict separation of production streams, reinforced dioxin monitoring, and the extension of reporting obligations to private laboratories. The Commission rejected the positive list and the mandatory liability insurance actions proposed by Germany. Member states felt that there were lessons to be learnt from the incident and supported the Commission's proposed approach.

Latvia requested EU co-financing to support the cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles returning from the Russian Federation, to prevent the introduction of African swine fever. Most member states supported the request made. The Commission would consider different options to provide support and these would be discussed further at expert level.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### G6 Meeting (Krakow)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** The informal G6 group of Ministers of the Interior from the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Poland held their most recent meeting in Krakow, Poland on 3-4 February 2011. The meeting had been postponed from September 2010. The meeting was chaired by the Polish Minister for the Interior, Jerzy Miller.

The meeting was divided into two working sessions over one day, both of which were attended by G6 Ministers of the Interior (I represented the UK; Thomas de Maizière—Germany; Brice Hortefeux—France; Roberto Maroni—Italy), with the additional guest attendance of the US Attorney-General, Eric Holder and the US Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security, Jane Lute. Spain was represented by the Minister of State for Security, Antonio Camacho Vizcaino.

The first working session was on cyberspace security. Ministers considered the need to inform the public on how to keep safe in cyberspace. I noted that the Government had allocated £650 million to fund national cyber-security, including £63 million on cybercrime and that the Government would be publishing a cyber-security strategy in the spring. The approach of the UK was for more effective self-regulation rather than formal regulation. To this end, there was frequent consultation between Government and internet security providers. The US Attorney-General noted that his Government had recently issued a cyberspace policy review and created an office for cyber-security co-ordination. There were discussions around data retention and protection.

The second session focused on the issue of information policy in countering terrorism. The Poles were particularly keen to gather expertise from other states in advance of the Euro 2012 football championships which they will jointly host with Ukraine—in particular how to ensure that the accurate messages get to citizens rapidly. I offered to work closely with Poland noting that the championship will take place only a month before the London Olympics.

I also held separate bilateral meetings with other heads of delegations.

The next meeting of the G6 is expected to be held in Spain in June.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Upgrading Private Sector Occupational Pensions (Revised Impact Assessment)

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb):** Today, the Government will publish an updated version of their impact assessment for the move to the consumer prices index (CPI) for upgrading private sector occupational pensions. A further update is anticipated when the Government respond to the consultation on this issue.

On 8 July, Government announced the move to using the CPI as the basis for the statutory minimum uprating of occupational pensions. On 8 December, the Department published a consultation document on the impact of using the CPI for revaluation and indexation of private sector occupational pensions, and an initial impact assessment was published to accompany the consultation document.

Following publication, an error in the calculations has been identified. Additionally the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) has reviewed the calculations underpinning the impact assessment. Acting on the feedback from the RPC, the Government have made a change to the method used to calculate the net present value (the value expressed in today's money) of the reductions to scheme liabilities. The version to be published later today takes account of these two changes.

The Government are currently undertaking research into private pension schemes rules and the likely reaction of employers to the decision to use the CPI which will extend our evidence base for calculating the impact on scheme liabilities. The outcome of this analysis will feature in the next edition of the impact assessment.

A copy of the revised impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and is available on the Department's website at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/cpi-private-pensions-consultation-ia.pdf>



# Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 14 February 2011

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' DEL will be increased by £2,876,008,000 from £20,801,811,000 to £23,677,819,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £2,826,000 from £323,487,000 to £326,313,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital is as set out in the following table:

|                             | Change    |           | New DEL    |            |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
|                             | Voted     | Non-Voted | Voted      | Non-Voted  |
| Resource (£000)             | 2,817,200 | (51,602)  | 10,590,127 | 11,211,457 |
| of which:                   |           |           |            |            |
| Administration budget*      | 2,826     | 0         | 322,669    | 3,644      |
| Near cash in Resource DEL** | 154,200   | (69,602)  | 6,364,594  | 11,025,140 |
| Capital (£000)              | 4,977     | 123,433   | 704,548    | 1,426,195  |
| Less Depreciation*** (£000) | 0         | (18,000)  | (68,191)   | (186,317)  |
| Total (£000)                | 2,822,177 | 53,831    | 11,226,484 | 12,451,335 |

\*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

\*\*Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

\*\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:*

#### R/R1

- A reserve claim of £5,121,000 for Ofcom to enable repayment of levies to Channel 3 and Channel 5 following a recent license review which resulted in a change in the terms of the license;
- A reduction in voted receipts from the Department for Work and Pensions of £1,572,000 and a reduction of non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies in respect of self-employment programmes;
- A virement of £2,580,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies to voted expenditure by the Skills Funding Agency (RfR3) in respect of the regional skills strategy;

iv) A reduction of £64,865,000 in voted receipts from the Department for Communities and Local Government and a reduction in non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies;

v) A virement of £222,000 voted business support programmes to non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies;

vi) A virement of £195,000 from London Development Agency to the Skills Funding Agency (RfR3) for the regional skills strategy;

vii) A reclassification of £40,000,000 from non-voted resource expenditure on Small Firms Loan Guarantee provisions to voted capital expenditure on Launch Investment;

viii) A reclassification of £40,705,000 from voted capital expenditure by the Strategic Investment Fund to non-voted resource expenditure by the Technology Strategy Board for the Strategic Investment in Low Carbon Engine programme (£40,500,000) and Composites Challenge (£205,000);

ix) A virement of £5,800,000 from voted business programmes to non-voted expenditure by the Technology Strategy Board for Advanced Powerplant and Aerodynamics Research Technology and Rapid Technology Evolution;

x) A reclassification of £5,900,000 from voted Strategic Investment Fund capital expenditure to non-voted resource expenditure by the Technology Strategy Board for Rotorcraft Technology Validation Programme;

xi) A reclassification of £21,393,000 from voted capital expenditure by the Strategic Investment Fund to various voted resource programmes including the Hybrid Training Vehicle Package and the Manufacturing Advisory Service Low Carbon project;

xii) A Machinery of Government transfer from HM Treasury of £176,000 for the Government Property Unit;

xiii) A budget transfer of £899,000 to the Office of Fair Trading to fund an enforcement team to protect consumers from internet fraud;

xiv) A virement of £60,000 from RfR3 for Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications;

xv) A virement of £194,000 underspend on Government Skills (RfR3) to expenditure on restructuring;

xvi) A utilisation of £8,321,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision towards voted central services;

#### R/R2

i) A reclassification from resource to capital of £9,470,000 in respect of non-voted expenditure by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council;

ii) A virement of £100,000 from voted expenditure on Science and Society to non-voted expenditure by the research councils;

iii) A Reserve Claim of £18,000,000 of non-voted expenditure in respect of non-cash for amortisation of Medical Research Council intellectual property assets;

#### R/R3

i) A non cash Reserve Claim of £2,663,000,000 in relation to Student Loan provisions and impairments of the value of the Student Loan book. This reflects the low level of interest rates which has prevailed since 2008



and potential changes in valuation following a current review of the modelling. As a complex and volatile asset, which is sensitive to macro-economic changes outside BIS's control, an element of contingency has been included.

- ii) Utilisation of £11,964,000 of end year flexibility for the Aimhigher programme
- iii) Utilisation of £100,036,000 of end year flexibility for student grants;
- iv) Utilisation of £74,300,000 of end year flexibility for the Skills Funding Agency comprising: £14,300,000 for the Unemployment package (6-month offers); £23,000,000 for Apprenticeships; £30,000,000 for the Adult Skills Participation Level 3 programme and £7,000,000 for Career Development Loans;
- v) A reclassification of £99,152,000 from resource to capital in respect of the Skills Funding Agency;
- vi) A reclassification of £2,000,000 from non-voted resource to non-voted capital in respect of the Higher Education Funding Council for England;
- vii) A reclassification of £1,974,000 from non-voted resource to non-voted capital in respect of the Student Loans Company;
- viii) A reclassification of £11,700,000 from voted resource to non-voted capital in respect of the Higher Education Funding Council for England;
- ix) A virement of £748,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Student Loans Company to voted expenditure on Student Support;
- x) An increase of £13,101,000 in voted receipts for the Student Loans Company, offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure;
- xi) A virement of £3,900,000 from non-voted expenditure by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to voted expenditure by the Skills Funding Agency;
- xii) A budget transfer of £75,000 from the Department for Education to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service for costs of BECTA (British Educational and Communications Technology Agency) staff;
- xiii) A budget transfer from the Ministry of Justice of £197,000 for careers advice in prisons;

- xiv) A budget transfer to the Department for Education of £1,000,000 for Family Learning Impact Funding;
- xv) A budget transfer of £11,900,000 from the Skills Funding Agency to the Department for Education for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities;
- xvi) A virement of £194,000 from an underspend on Government Skills to expenditure on restructuring;
- xvii) A virement of £60,000 to RfR1 for Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications;
- xviii) A virement of £195,000 from the London Development Agency (RfR1) to the Skills Funding Agency for the regional skills strategy;
- xix) A virement of £2,580,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies (RfR1) to voted expenditure by the Skills Funding Agency in respect of the regional skills strategy;

Also within the change to resource DEL, the changes to the Administration budget are (RfR1):

- i) A Machinery of Government transfer from HM Treasury of £2,826,000 for the Government Property Unit;

The change in the Capital element of the DEL arises from:

#### RfR1

- i) An increase of £64,865,000 in voted receipts from the Department for Communities and Local Government and an increase in non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies;
- ii) A virement of £7,200,000 voted grants for business investment to non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies;
- iii) An increase of £45,000 in voted receipts from the Department for Transport and an increase in non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies in respect of regional infrastructure funds;
- iv) A reclassification of £40,705,000 from voted capital expenditure by the Strategic Investment Fund to non-voted resource expenditure by the Technology Strategy Board for the Strategic Investment in Low Carbon Engine programme (£40,500,000) and Composite Challenge (£205,000);
- v) A reclassification of £21,393,000 from voted capital expenditure by the Strategic Investment Fund to various voted resource programmes including the Hybrid Training Vehicle Package and the Manufacturing Advisory Service Low Carbon programme;
- vi) A virement of £5,900,000 from voted Strategic Investment Fund capital expenditure to non-voted resource expenditure by the Technology Strategy Board for the Rotorcraft Technology Validation Programme;
- vii) A reclassification of £40,000,000 from non-voted resource expenditure on Small Firms Loan Guarantee provisions to voted capital expenditure on Launch Investment;
- viii) A virement of £25,600,000 of Launch Investment receipts from non-voted Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts to voted Appropriations in Aid;
- ix) A budget transfer of £1,000,000 from UK Trade and Investment towards accommodation costs;
- x) A budget transfer of £31,112,000 from the Northern Ireland executive for Launch Investment;

#### RfR2

- i) A virement of £140,000 from non-voted expenditure by the research councils to voted expenditure by the British Academy;
- ii) A reclassification from resource to capital of £9,470,000 in respect of non-voted expenditure by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council;

#### RfR3

- i) A reclassification of £99,152,000 from resource to capital in respect of the Skills Funding Agency;
- ii) A reclassification of £11,700,000 from voted resource to non-voted capital in respect of the Higher Education Funding Council for England;
- iii) A reclassification of £2,000,000 from non-voted resource to non-voted capital in respect of the Higher Education Funding Council for England;
- iv) A reclassification of £1,974,000 from non-voted resource to non-voted capital in respect of the Student Loans Company;
- v) An increase of £719,000 in voted receipts for the Student Loans Company, offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure.

## TREASURY

## Government Actuary's Department: Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Government Actuary's Department total DEL will be increased by £387,000 from £299,000 to £686,000. Within the total DEL change the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

|                       | Change |           | New DEL |           | £000s |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------|
|                       | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted   | Non-voted |       |
| Resource DEL          | 127    | 95        | 554     | 101       | 655   |
| Of which:             |        |           |         |           |       |
| Administration budget | 127    | 95        | 554     | 101       | 655   |
| Capital DEL           | 72     | -         | 284     | -         | 284   |
| Less Depreciation*    | 93     | -         | -253    | -         | -253  |
| Total DEL             | 292    | 95        | 585     | 101       | 686   |

\*Depreciation which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from Total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

An increase in administration expenditure of £2,846,000 from £12,619,000 to £15,465,000

An increase in appropriations in aid provision of £2,719,000 from £12,192,000 to £14,911,000. Due to a policy decision GAD will be unable to generate sufficient income to remain within the net resource limit and a reserve claim of £300,000 to meet this shortfall is included which will be deducted from next year's DEL total.

An increase in non-voted DEL of £95,000 from £6,000 to £101,000 to cover the cash effect of payments made against two provisions for ongoing early retirement and injury benefit costs under the civil service injury benefit scheme.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from a budget switch of £72,000 from non-staff resource DEL expenditure.

## HM Revenue and Customs: Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the supplementary estimate, the HM Revenue and Customs total DEL will be increased by £12,000,000 from £3,706,342,000 to £3,718,342,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                        | Change |           | New DEL   |           | £'000     |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                        | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted     | Non-voted |           |
| Resource DEL           | 47,000 | -         | 3,358,284 | 425,976   | 3,784,260 |
| Of which:              |        |           |           |           |           |
| Administration budget* | 45,000 | -         | 3,631,418 | 79,437    | 3,710,855 |

£'000

|                     | Change  |           | New DEL   |           | Total     |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | Voted   | Non-voted | Voted     | Non-voted |           |
| Capital             | -35,000 | -         | 176,549   | -         | 176,549   |
| Less depreciation** | -       | -         | -242,467  | -         | -242,467  |
| Total DEL           | 12,000  | -         | 3,292,366 | 425,976   | 3,718,342 |

\*The total of "Administration Budget" figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Reserve claim of £12,500,000 administration (approved by CST) to fund the use of debt collection agencies in tackling £500 million of tax debt;

Decrease of £2,500,000 administration due to a budgetary cover transfer to Communities and Local Government to fund Opendata (Ordnance Survey mapping services);

£2,000,000 EYF claim for programme funds (approved by CST) to cover work on the Contracts Finder portal (formerly Glover portal) in connection with the Business.gov website;

£35,000,000 funds transfer from capital to resource DEL (administration), to correct the alignment of HMRC's share of the austerity savings recorded at the main estimate.

The change in the administration budget arises from the specific administration items detailed in the resource element above.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

£35,000,000 funds transfer from capital to resource del (administration), to correct the alignment of HMRC's share of the austerity savings recorded at the main estimate.

## Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the spring supplementary estimate, HM Treasury's resource DEL will be increased by £14,148,000 from £180,063,000 to £200,231,000. The administration budget will be increased by £12,724,000 from £137,594,000 to £150,318,000. The impact on resources, including the administration budget is set out in the following table:

|                       | Change     |           | New DEL     |            | Total       |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|                       | Voted      | Non-voted | Voted       | Non-voted  |             |
| Resource              | 26,063,000 | -11,915   | 178,422,000 | 21,809,000 | 200,231,000 |
| Of which:             |            |           |             |            |             |
| Administration budget | 22,923,000 | -10,199   | 149,408,000 | 910        | 150,318,000 |
| Capital*              | 3,299      | -3,400    | 48,599,000  | -          | 48,599,000  |
| Less: depreciation**  | -          | -         | -6,725,000  | -          | -6,725,000  |
| Total                 | 29,362,000 | -15,315   | 220,296,000 | 21,809,000 | 242,105,000 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The net increase in resource DEL of £14,148,000 is the net effect of the take-up of administration budget (£2,400,000) and programme (£1,600,000) EYF in RfR 1

section A to fund the costs of the increased work load which includes the funding of various new Treasury related bodies and the draw down from the modernisation fund of £7,598,000 administration costs to fund costs associated with the Fast Forward IT project. There is also a transfer of £5,552,000 from capital to resources to fund the increased work load pressures.

As a result of the machinery of government (MoG) transfer of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), £3,002,000 (£2,826,000 administration and £176,000 programme) is being transferred to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to reflect the transfer of responsibility for the Government property and facilities management teams.

Additionally there are movements from non-voted to voted spending within the DEL total to reflect the draw-down of departmental unallocated provision (DUP) of £709,000 administration and £1,716,000 programme and the reallocation of an underspend on utilisation of provision of £9,490,000 to voted spending.

The administration budget is increasing by £12,724,000, which is the net effect of the EYF take-up (£2,400,000), draw-down from the modernisation fund (£7,598,000), a transfer from capital (£5,552,000) and the MoG transfer (£2,826,000) of OGC to BIS.

The capital DEL decreases by £101,000 which is the net result of the draw-down of £5,451,000 from the modernisation fund to cover spending on the Fast Forward IT project less a transfer to resources of £5,552,000. Additionally, voted DEL is being increased by £3,400,000 following the take-up of DUP.

#### National Savings and Investments: Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, National Savings and Investments resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £3,942,000 to £172,344,000 and capital DEL will be increased by £1,000,000 to £1,464,000. Within DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

|                       | Change |           | New DEL |           | Total   |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                       | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted   | Non-voted |         |
| Resource DEL          | 3,942  | -         | 172,344 | -         | 172,344 |
| Of which:             |        |           |         |           |         |
| Administration budget | 3,942  | -         | 172,344 | -         | 172,344 |
| Capital*              | 1,000  | -         | 1,464   | -         | 1,464   |
| Depreciation**        | -      | -         | -2,983  | -         | -2,983  |
| Total                 | 4,942  | -         | 170,825 | -         | 170,825 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets

\*\*Depreciation which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource and capital elements of DEL arises from the take-up of end-year flexibility (EYF).

## CABINET OFFICE

### Social Investment Strategy

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude):** My hon. Friend the Minister responsible for civil society, the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd) and I are today publishing a strategy for social investment, "Growing the Social Investment Market", which gives more detail on the role of the big society bank, alongside other measures to build the market. I am placing copies in the Libraries of both Houses and making it available on the Cabinet Office website.

Social entrepreneurs, and the social ventures they lead, bring innovative solutions to some of our most intractable social problems, by combining commitment to a clear social mission with financially sustainable business models. They are crucial to building a bigger, stronger society, as well as contributing to economic growth and employment. However, social entrepreneurs are often held back by a lack of access to investment finance, which means they find it difficult to get started, to expand their ventures and to achieve their full potential. This is particularly the case now that public spending is constrained and many organisations that may have previously relied on some grant funding to survive are having to cope with the difficult transition to a new financing landscape.

The Government therefore want to accelerate the development of the emerging social investment market, to increase the supply of capital available to social ventures. Our vision is for a market in which investors—from individual citizens to large institutions and charitable trusts and foundations—can choose to "invest for good" by putting their money into organisations that create positive social impact and a financial return. In the long term we want this to become the norm: a third pillar of funding alongside traditional giving and public service income.

The big society bank will play a crucial part in catalysing the development of this market, and some of its functions will be in place in April 2011. And we will now work with leading social investment experts to develop a proposal for the establishment of the big society bank as an independent private sector organisation, with its social mission "locked-in". The bank will act as a wholesaler to build the market and leverage in new finance. It will operate in a transparent way, publishing annual accounts including details of the financial and social impact of its investments, and it will be financially self-sufficient—able, in time, to cover its operating costs and make investments in line with its core mission. The bank will also act as a champion for the social investment market, offering advice and assistance, and acting as a vital portal to connect social ventures with sources of investment.

Alongside establishing the big society bank, action being taken by Government—to open up public services to a wider range of providers; to empower communities to purchase and run local assets; to review the effectiveness of the current fiscal, regulatory and legal framework for social investment; and to provide financial and other



support for social ventures to build their business capability—will help create the right conditions for the market to thrive and grow.

Government and the big society bank cannot achieve this alone. So the strategy also calls on others to play their part. Social ventures and other civil society organisations will need to be willing to explore new forms of financing, and prove that they have financially sustainable business models. Existing specialist intermediaries will have a critical role in developing their product ranges and support and will need to compete with new intermediaries entering the market. Charitable trusts and foundations are in a good position to free up a portion of their investment and endowment assets, which account for nearly £95 billion, for social investment. We look to mainstream financial institutions to dedicate resources to create new products, to build expertise and to leverage their distribution networks. And ultimately, we want individual citizens to start to see social investment as a core savings proposition.

Taken together this framework for action and the establishment of the big society bank will enable the great work being carried out by the innovative, committed people and organisations across the UK to have a major impact in building a better, stronger society.

#### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the spring supplementary estimate 2010-11, the Cabinet Office total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £17,630,000 from £559,087,000 to £576,717,000.

The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

| £'000                 | Winter Supplementary Estimate<br>DEL |           |         | Changes |           |         | Spring Supplementary Estimate<br>New DEL |           |         |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
|                       | Voted                                | Non-voted | Total   | Voted   | Non-voted | Total   | Voted                                    | Non-voted | Total   |
| Resource DEL          | 365,394                              | 150,181   | 515,575 | +1,564  | +471      | +2,035  | 366,958                                  | 150,652   | 517,610 |
| Of which:             |                                      |           |         |         |           |         |                                          |           |         |
| Administration budget | 225,317                              | 10,400    | 235,717 | -11,912 | +512      | -11,400 | 213,405                                  | 10,912    | 224,317 |
| Capital DEL**         | 69,137                               | 2,000     | 71,137  | +15,501 | +94       | +15,595 | 84,638                                   | 2,094     | 86,732  |
| Depreciation*         | -27,625                              | -         | -27,625 | -       | -         | -       | -27,625                                  | -         | -27,625 |
| Total DEL             | 406,906                              | 152,181   | 559,087 | +17,065 | +565      | +17,630 | 423,971                                  | 152,746   | 576,717 |

\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

\*\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

#### Summary of Changes in Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)

The change in the resource element of DEL is an increase of £2,035,000 which comprises: £6,172,000 agreed claims on the reserve, £4,137,000 reduction for transfers to capital DEL.

The change in the capital element of DEL is an increase of £15,595,000 which comprises £11,458,000 capital DEL end-year flexibility draw-down and transfers from resource to capital for £4,137,000.

#### Changes in Resource DEL (RDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in resource DEL (RDEL) of £2,035,000 are as follows:

##### Agreed claims on the Reserve £6,172,000

A claim on the reserve for v match funding increases resource DEL, net resource and net cash requirement by £6,172,000.

##### Transfers from Resource DEL to Capital DEL £4,137,000

A transfer from administration expenditure within resource DEL to capital DEL to cover the costs for small projects of £728,000. Net resource requirement will reduce by £728,000 and net cash requirement remain the same.

A transfer from resource DEL administration expenditure to capital DEL to cover expenditure on projects enhancing the computer system which supports civil service pensions for £350,000. Net resource requirement will reduce by £350,000 and net cash requirement remain the same.

A transfer from administration expenditure within resource DEL to capital DEL to cover the costs for small projects £750,000. Net resource requirement will reduce by £750,000 and net cash requirement remain the same.

A transfer within Directgov from administration expenditure within resource DEL to capital DEL to cover expenditure on Directgov channel development projects was identified as capital as part of work to comply with IFRS for £2,215,000. Net resource requirement will reduce by £2,215,000 and net cash requirement remain the same.

A switch from non-voted programme expenditure within resource DEL to capital DEL to cover additional non-voted capital expenditure to eNDPBs decreases RDEL by £94,000. Net resource requirement and net cash requirement remain the same.

#### Changes in Capital DEL (CDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in capital DEL (CDEL) of £15,595,000 are as follows:

##### End Year Flexibility £11,458,000

A draw-down of end-year flexibility to cover capital grant programmes run by the Office for Civil Society (OCS) increases capital DEL, net resource requirement and net cash requirement by £11,458,000.



### Transfers from Resource DEL to Capital DEL £4,137,000

A transfer from administration expenditure within resource DEL to capital DEL to cover the costs of small projects of £728,000. Net cash requirement remain the same and capital DEL will increase by £728,000.

A transfer from administration expenditure within resource DEL to capital DEL to cover expenditure on projects enhancing the computer system which supports civil service pensions of £350,000. Net cash requirement remain the same and capital DEL will increase by £350,000.

A transfer from administration expenditure within resource DEL to capital DEL to cover the costs for small projects of £750,000. Net cash requirement remain the same.

A transfer within Directgov from administration expenditure within resource DEL to capital DEL to cover expenditure on Directgov channel development projects was identified as capital as part of work to comply with IFRS for £2,215,000. Net resource requirement will reduce by £2,215,000 and net cash requirement remain the same.

A switch from non-voted resource DEL to capital DEL to cover additional non-voted capital expenditure to eNDPBs decreases RDEL by £94,000. Net resource and net cash requirement remain the same.

### UK Statistics Authority: Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the UK Statistics Authority's total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £700,000 from £319,533,000 to £320,233,000, and the programme budget will be increased by £700,000<sup>1</sup>.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

|                       | Change |           | New DEL |           | £'000   |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                       | Voted  | Non-Voted | Voted   | Non-voted |         |
| Resource DEL          | 2,300  | -1,600    | 309,833 | 10,400    | 320,233 |
| of which:             |        |           |         |           |         |
| Administration budget | -      | -         | -       | -         | -       |
| Capital**             | -15    | -         | 14,985  | -         | 14,985  |
| Less Depreciation*    |        |           | -19,925 |           | -19,925 |
| Total                 | 2,285  | -1,600    | 304,893 | 10,400    | 315,293 |

\*\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

The take-up of departmental unallocated provision (DUP) of £6,000,000 in order to finance 2011 Census

Budget cover £700,000 from other Government Departments in support of the migration statistics improvement programme

The change in the programme budget arises from draw-down of draw-down of £6,000,000 of DUP and budget cover from DCLG of £700,000.

<sup>1</sup>The UK Statistics Authority is the operating name of the legal entity "the Statistics Board", created in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The Main Estimates were submitted using the name "the Statistics Board".

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Homes Programme

**The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps):** Further to my written statement of 9 December, *Official Report*, column 31WS, I am today announcing the publication of the framework for the Government's affordable homes programme for 2011-15. This document is published jointly by my Department and the Homes and Communities Agency.

The affordable homes programme is designed to support the delivery of up to 150,000 new affordable homes through a mixture of new investment (some £4.5 billion over the next four years) and greater flexibility for social housing providers to make the best use of existing and future assets. The new affordable rent model, which will be the principal element of the programme, will make public subsidy go further while also enabling local authorities and providers to target support where it is most needed.

The framework document invites offers from providers who are interested in participating in the programme. The full document is available at [www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/affordable-homes](http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/affordable-homes).

In parallel, my right hon. Friend the Minister with responsibility for decentralisation, the Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) has today launched a consultation on a technical revision to annex B of planning policy statement 3 to make clear that affordable rent falls within the definition of affordable housing for planning purposes. The consultation document is available at [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps3annexconsultation](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps3annexconsultation).

In addition, to give providers more certainty over future income, I have today confirmed that the existing inflation-linked formula for annual rent increases in social rented housing will continue to apply throughout the 2011-15 period, as part of the Government's rent restructuring policy.

Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the spring supplementary estimate, the Department for Communities and Local Government's departmental expenditure limits, (DEL) for 2010-11 will change as follows:

#### Section 1: Main Programmes DEL

1. The Department for Communities and Local Government's main DEL will be increased by £326,477,000 from £9,853,667,000 to £10,180,144,000 and the

administration budget will be decreased by £2,100,000 from £262,012,000 to £259,912,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                       | Change  |           | NEW DEL   |           | Total      |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                       | Voted   | Non-voted | Voted     | Non-voted |            |
| Resource              | 4,120   | 58        | 3,341,449 | 438,412   | 3,779,861  |
| Of which              |         |           |           |           |            |
| Administration budget | -2,100  |           | 258,234   | 1,678     | 259,912    |
| Capital*              | 36,507  | 330,493   | 1,341,660 | 5,147,275 | 6,488,935  |
| Depreciation**        | -42,984 | -1,717    | -81,472   | -7,180    | -88,652    |
| Total                 | -2,357  | 328,834   | 4,601,637 | 5,578,507 | 10,180,144 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting

## 2. The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

2.1 An internal transfer of £522,000 from request for resources 1 (main DEL) to request for resources 2 (local government DEL) to pay the Audit Commission bill for fire inspection work;

2.2 A net transfer of £4,700,000 from other Government Departments, made up of:

| Transfers in (Programme total £7,500,000)                                 |                               |                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amount (£)                                                                | Department                    | Reason                                                                       |
| £2,500,000                                                                | Culture, Media and Sport      | Final contributions for 2010-11 towards the cross-Government OpenData policy |
| £2,500,000                                                                | HM Revenue and Customs        |                                                                              |
| £2,500,000                                                                | Ministry of Justice           |                                                                              |
| Transfers out (Programme total £700,000, Administration total £2,100,000) |                               |                                                                              |
| £700,000                                                                  | Office of National Statistics | £700,000 to fund migration statistics work                                   |
| £2,100,000                                                                | Work and Pensions             | To reflect reduced activity on administering European social fund payments   |

## 2.3 A net increase in receipts of £23,338,000. This is made up of increases in provision of:

£100,000 for Residential Property Tribunal Service in respect of hearing application fees;

£42,000 towards the aggregates minerals survey, comprising £20,000 from the Welsh Assembly, £12,000 from the Scottish Executive and £10,000 from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills;

£600,000 from the Department for Energy and Climate Change towards the English Housing Survey;

£9,810,000 for the Planning Inspectorate to bring the receipt in line with their projected income;

£381,000 for fire and rescue services improvement programme for payment of the Audit Commission bill;

£2,200,000 for control rooms in respect of compensation for building work on the East Midlands Regional Control Centre;

£2,500,000 for Ordnance Survey to cover their income from provision of OpenData;

£7,955,000 for Government Office programmes (administration budget) comprising £440,000 for work on the older persons agenda; £1,515,000 for space lease out in Government Office buildings to minor occupiers and £6,000,000 for staff exit costs from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Home Office and the Department for Education.

offset by decreases in provision of:

£250,000 for adults facing chronic exclusion as this income will not be received.

## 2.4 A net transfer of £58,000 programme provision from non-voted to voted made up as follows:

### from voted to non-voted provision

£159,000 to the Homes and Communities Agency in respect of the Advisory Team on Large Applications (ATLAS);

£2,800,000 for Community Development Foundation for pension risks;

£246,000 for Thurrock Urban Development Corporation to increase their depreciation budget;

### from non-voted to voted provision

£3,147,000 to control rooms comprising £2,831,000 from the departmental unallocated provision and £316,000 from the Tenant Services Authority for costs associated with programme closure;

2.5 The changes described at paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 above have a net nil effect on the departmental expenditure limit. The additional budget sought for the items at 2.3 is fully offset by a corresponding increase in receipts. The net transfer between voted and non-voted expenditure reflects only a re-classification of budget, not additional expenditure.

2.6 The change in the administration budget arises from the transfer of £2,100,000 from the Government Offices to the Department for Work and Pensions—see above table at 2.2.

## 3. The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

### 3.1 Draw-down of end of year flexibility of £390,000,000, as follows:

£200,000,000 to fulfil the remaining national affordable housing programme commitments;

£140,000,000 for contractual commitments on the decent homes programme and mortgage rescue scheme; and

£50,000,000 for the Kickstart programme.

3.2 Transfer to HM Treasury of £23,000,000 for the local authority new build to cover the local authority borrowing element of the programme. The local authority new build programme is funded by a mixture of the Homes and Communities Agency grants and local authorities own prudential borrowing. Prudential borrowing is treated as public expenditure and has to be reflected in HM Treasury's accounts. Therefore, HM Treasury require an offsetting transfer from DCLG budgets to HM Treasury's budget to reflect the increased borrowing requirement.

### 3.3 A net increase in receipts of £128,979,000. This is made up of increases in provision of:

£80,888,000 for the re-classification of the regional control centre leases from inventory to finance leases;

£62,069,000 of potential assets to be transferred to the fire and rescue authorities;

£4,046,000 for capital pooled housing receipts. These receipts are available to fund pressures arising elsewhere in the Department

offset by decreases in provision of:

£18,024,000 for the regional control centres leases that the Department is expecting to transfer out this financial year. HM Treasury agreed that the Department will receive a capital credit upon the transfer of any of the regional control centres leases.

3.4 A transfer of £36,507,000 from non-voted to voted made up of:

£20,000,000 of receipts generated from the Homes and Community Agency from development land disposals to community empowerment to meet emerging pressures;

£7,553,000 from Homes and Communities Agency growth due to withdrawal of funding in support of eco-towns and an adjustment of £8,954,000 within new dimension for the surrendering of the extra receipts to the Consolidated Fund.

3.5 The changes described at paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 above have a net nil effect on the departmental expenditure limit:

#### Section 2: Local Government DEL

4. The Department for Communities and Local Government's local government DEL will be decreased by £648,000 from £25,990,195,000 to £25,989,547,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                | Change |           | NEW DEL    |           | Total      |
|----------------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted      | Non-voted |            |
| Resource       | -1,978 | -15       | 25,861,068 | 115,338   | 25,976,406 |
| Capital*       | 1,470  | 15        | 13,940     | 597       | 14,537     |
| Depreciation** | 0      | -140      | 0          | -1,396    | -1,396     |
| Total          | -508   | -140      | 25,875,008 | 114,539   | 25,989,547 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

5. The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

the transfer of £522,000 to request for resources 2 (local government DEL) from request for resources 1 (main DEL) described at paragraph 2.1 above;

a transfer of £2,500,000 to the Ministry of Justice towards the costs of the 7/7 bombing inquest costs. This item will not be shown on the face of the estimate, because voted provision can be reduced only for machinery of government changes and transfers from one request for resources to another within the same estimate. It will be classified as an estimate exclusion item; and

a switch of £15,000 from resource to capital for valuation tribunals to cover additional telephone costs for their Doncaster office.

6. The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

a refund of £1,470,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions for Government Connect, due to an under spend on the project; and

a switch of £15,000 to capital from resource as described above at paragraph 5.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): Subject to parliamentary approval, the Department for Culture Media and Sport's

departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £88,500,000 from £1,996,963,000 to £2,085,463,000. Within the DEL change the impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

|                       | Change |           | New      |           | DEL       | £'000 |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
|                       | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted    | Non-voted |           |       |
| Resource DEL          | 8,910  | 54,650    | 99,773   | 1,514,870 | 1,614,643 |       |
| of which:             |        |           |          |           |           |       |
| Administration budget |        |           | 51,488   |           | 51,488    |       |
| Capital*              | -60    | 25,000    | -643,466 | 1,242,392 | 598,926   |       |
| Less                  | -      | -         | -7,500   | -120,606  | -128,106  |       |
| Depreciation**        |        |           |          |           |           |       |
| Total                 | 8,850  | 79,650    | -551,193 | 2,636,656 | 2,085,463 |       |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the Resource element of the DEL arises from:

Take up of £18,000,000 End Year flexibility comprising: (£10,000,000) for Museums and Galleries, and (£8,000,000) for Broadcasting; Claims on the Reserve totalling £56,000,000 comprising budgetary cover (£48,000,000) in respect of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, (£5,000,000) for the Listed Places of Worship Scheme and (£3,000,000) for costs associated with the sale of the Tote, and an agreed transfer of £60,000 from to Capital to Resource DEL to correct a misalignment of funds in the Winter Supplementary Estimate, partially offset by transfers to other Government Departments of £10,500,000, (£8,000,000) to support Stage 2 Devolution in Northern Ireland and (£2,500,000) to Department for Communities and Local Government for the Ordnance Survey contribution.

The Capital element of the DEL has increased by £24,940,000 as a result of:

The drawdown of £25,000,000 End Year Flexibility (EYF) for the Museums and galleries, and an agreed transfer of £60,000 from Capital to Resource DEL to correct a misalignment of funds in the Winter Supplementary Estimate.

### Government Olympic Executive (Annual Report)

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): I am publishing today the Government Olympic Executive's annual report—"GOE London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report February 2011". This report explains the latest budget position as at 31 December 2010, and outlines the many wider economic, sporting and social legacy benefits to the UK.

The overall public sector funding package for the games remains at £9.298 billion following the spending review announcement on 20 October 2010. The funding package will, however, be reconfigured from April 2011 to make provisions for operational requirements, reflecting the changing focus of the programme from construction to operational delivery. Also from April 2011, Government funding for the programme—excluding security which



sits with the Home Office and other Government Departments—will be held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games remain on time and within budget. The Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) anticipated final cost (AFC) now stands at £7.301 billion, which includes additional funding of £57 million for park operations.

Park operations are the additional responsibilities taken on by the ODA for the operation of the Olympic park and its venues and facilities between 2011 and the handover to legacy owners by 2014. On a like-for-like basis, excluding the park operations budget, the current AFC has increased by £12 million from that of 30 September 2010. The £12 million increase is a consequence of several movements across the programme including forecast savings on the Olympic stadium, security and logistics, offset by forecast increases for infrastructure such as utilities and landscaping. Around £0.5 billion of contingency remains available for programme-wide risks. A total of over £780 million in savings has been achieved by the ODA since November 2007.

The ODA continues to make strong progress in preparing the venues and infrastructure in the Olympic park, with 79 per cent of the programme to the 2012 games now completed. The Olympic stadium is structurally complete with the cable net roof covered, all 14 lighting towers in place and all spectator seats installed. The Aquatics Centre permanent structure and roof are in place, with the structures of the temporary seating stands for games-time spectators nearing completion. The Velodrome remains on target to be the first Olympic park sporting venue to be finished later this month. The structures of the handball and basketball arenas are now completed, with work progressing on the venues' interiors. The structures of the international broadcast centre, main press centre and multi-storey car park are all complete. Recent milestones of the project include the completion of the first brand new venue, the Lee Valley White Water Centre at Broxbourne and the official turning on of the Olympic stadium lights by the Prime Minister and Mayor of London. As of December 2010, over 12,000 people were working on the Olympic park and Olympic village.

In December 2010, the Government published a legacy plan, which sets out the legacy vision for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and the detailed plans underpinning it. The Government are committed to making the most of the games for the whole of the UK. It has identified four areas to focus on: Harnessing the UK's passion for sport to increase grassroots participation, particularly by young people; and to encourage the whole population to be more physically active; exploiting to the full the opportunities for economic growth offered by hosting the games; promoting community engagement and achieving participation across all groups in society through the games; and ensuring that the Olympic park can be developed after the games as one of the principal drivers of regeneration in East London.

I would like to commend this report to the members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest in and support for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Copies of the GOE annual report February 2011 are available online at: [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk) and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

## DEFENCE

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Defence departmental expenditure limits (DEL) will be increased by £603,289,000 (voted and non-voted) from £37,322,254,000 to £37,925,543,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital are as set out in the following table:

|                | Change     |           | New DEL     |            |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
|                | Voted      | Non-Voted | Voted       | Non-Voted  |
| Resource       | 3,343,915  | 4,737     | 38,798,465  | 608,197    |
| Of which:      |            |           |             |            |
| Administration |            |           | 2,182,586   | -          |
| Budget         |            |           |             |            |
| Capital        | 453,363    | -         | 9,616,845   | 851        |
| Depreciation*  | -2,292,000 | -         | -11,089,259 | -9,556     |
| Total          | 598,552    | 4,737     | 37,326,051  | 599,492    |
|                |            |           |             | 37,925,543 |

\*From the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes to the resource and capital elements of the DEL arise from:

*Voted Resource DEL increase £3,343,915,000:*

*RfR1:*

- (1) An increase of £700,000,000 for additional funding agreed as part of the spending review settlement;
- (2) To reflect a transfer of £250,000,000 from Capital DEL to Resource DEL within RfR1 relating to Single Use Military Equipment (SUME) flexibility with no overall impact on DEL;
- (3) Additional (non-cash) resource provision of £2,300,000,000 for impairments and write-offs resulting from the Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) stock accounting and verification project;
- (4) To increase Non Budget Grants in Aid (Non-Voted) for the National Army Museum of £243,000 and £705,000 for the Council of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association in Land Forces TLB by reducing Resource DEL current costs and increasing Non Budget Grants in Aid with no overall impact on resource.

*RfR2:*

- (1) To reflect a transfer of £105,363,000 from Capital DEL to Resource DEL within RfR2 relating to SUME flexibility with no overall impact on DEL;
- (2) To reflect a reduced forecast of £8,000,000 relating to RfR2 non-cash costs;
- (3) To reduce Voted Resource DEL by £2,500,000 relating to cash release of provisions that has been switched to Non-Voted Resource;
- (4) To revise sub-head provisions to reflect Resource and Capital revisions in allocations between Top Level Budget Holders to match required Defence outputs, with no overall impact on DEL.

*Non-Voted Resource DEL increase £4,737,000:*

*RfR1:*

- (1) To reflect the Non-Voted impact of an increase Non Budget Grants in Aid (Non-Voted) for the National Army Museum of £243,000 and £705,000 for the Council



of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association in Land Forces TLB by reducing Resource DEL current costs and increasing Non Budget Grants in Aid with no overall impact on resource;

(2) To reflect an omitted increase in Non-Voted provision of £1,289,000 for increased Grant-in-Aid funding at Winter Supplementary Estimates.

#### RfR2:

(1) To reflect an increase of £2,500,000 in the cash release of provisions forecast relating to RfR2.

*Voted Capital DEL decrease £453,363,000:*

#### RfR1:

(1) To reflect a transfer of £250,000,000 from Capital DEL to Resource DEL within RfR1 relating to SUME flexibility with no overall impact on DEL;

(2) To align Urgent Defence Requirement funding with reduced forecast capital expenditure of £98,000,000.

#### RfR2:

(1) To reflect a transfer of £105,363,000 from Capital DEL to Resource DEL within RfR2 relating to SUME flexibility with no overall impact on DEL.

The changes to Resource DEL and Capital DEL will lead to an increased net cash requirement of £602,000,000.

## EDUCATION

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

#### The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove):

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Education (DfE) departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £752,963,000 from £57,899,096,000 to £58,652,059,000; the administration cost budget will decrease by £195,000 from £182,003,000 to £181,808,000. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) which has a separate Estimate and DEL, will remain at £190,196,000 with the administration cost budget remaining at £27,337,000. The Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation (OFQUAL) which also has a separate Estimate and DEL, will remain at £23,400,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

| DfE                   | Resources |            |                    |            | Capital** |           |                    |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
|                       | Change    | New DEL    | Of which:<br>Voted | Non-voted  | Change    | New DEL   | Of which:<br>Voted | Non-voted |
|                       | £'000     | £'000      | £'000              | £'000      | £'000     | £'000     | £'000              | £'000     |
| RfR1                  | 74,475    | 49,758,215 | 39,159,839         | 10,598,376 | 446,083   | 6,763,630 | 671,693            | 6,091,937 |
| RfR2                  | 34,405    | 1,637,189  | 1,608,789          | 28,400     | 178,000   | 493,025   | 493,025            | 0         |
| DfE Total             | 108,880   | 51,395,404 | 40,768,628         | 10,626,776 | 644,083   | 7,256,655 | 1,164,718          | 6,091,937 |
| OFSTED                | -250      | 189,946    | 178,875            | 11,071     | 250       | 250       | 250                | 0         |
| OFQUAL                | 0         | 17,900     | 17,300             | 600        | 0         | 5,500     | 5,500              | 0         |
| Sub Total             | 108,630   | 51,603,250 | 40,894,808         | 10,708,442 | 644,333   | 7,262,405 | 1,170,468          | 6,091,937 |
| Of which Admin Budget | -195      | 209,145    | 204,677            | 4,468      | 0         | 0         | 0                  | 0         |
| Depreciation*         | -4,298    | -21,435    | -17,586            | -3,849     | 0         | 0         | 0                  | 0         |
| Total                 | 104,332   | 51,581,815 | 40,877,222         | 10,704,593 | 644,333   | 7,262,405 | 1,170,468          | 6,091,937 |

\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, in the table above, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

\*\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

#### Resource DEL

The increase in the resource element of the DEL of £108,880,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL of £2,124,182,000 and an increase of £2,233,062,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL, mainly in the Department's Arm's Length Bodies.

#### Voted Resource DEL

The £2,124,182,000 decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

#### RfR1

A Machinery of Government transfer to the Ministry of Justice of £195,000 in respect of Administration costs for the Joint Youth Justice Unit. This was a joint project between the Department for Education and the Ministry of Justice. Responsibility for this has been moved entirely to the Ministry of Justice. All Programme costs were transferred in the Winter Supplementary.

A transfer from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of £1,000,000 for the Family Learning Impact Fund to recoup unspent funding from 2009-10.

A transfer from the Ministry of Justice of £250,000 in respect of Think Family Grants funding the Family Intervention Project.

A switch of £110,000,000 from Resource spending to Capital Grants spending for Schools and Teachers.

Take up of Departmental End Year Flexibility of £101,000,000 to increase provision for Dedicated Schools Grant.

A movement from RfR2 of £5,411,000 to fund Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work spending and to fund the delivery of the Outreach training programme.

A movement of £2,246,053,000 to non-voted resource DEL to support the Department's Arm's Length Bodies.

#### RfR2

Take up of Departmental End Year Flexibility of £15,000,000 to increase provision for Current Grants to Local Authorities for Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare to promote the physical, intellectual and social development of babies and young people through Sure Start.

A movement to RFR1 of £5,411,000 to fund Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work spending and to fund the delivery of the Outreach training programme.

A movement from non-voted of £24,816,000 to fund Current Grants to Local Authorities for Sure Start, Yearly Years and Childcare.

#### *Non-voted resource DEL*

The £2,233,062,000 increase in Non-voted resource DEL arises from:

#### *RFR1*

A transfer from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of £11,900,000 for Higher Discretionary Support for 19-24 year olds.

A transfer to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of £75,000 to cover transfer costs for British Educational Communications and Technology Agency staff.

A movement of £2,246,053,000 from voted resource to support the Department's Arm's Length Bodies.

#### *RFR2*

A movement of £24,816,000 to voted resource to fund Current Grants to Local Authorities for Sure Start, Yearly Years and Childcare

#### *Capital DEL*

The increase in the capital element of the DEL of £644,083,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of capital DEL of £607,219,000 and an increase of £36,864,000 non-voted element of capital DEL.

#### *Voted Capital DEL*

The £607,219,000 increase in the voted element of capital DEL arises from:

#### *RFR1*

A switch of £110,000,000 from Resource spending to Capital Grants spending for Schools and Teachers.

A transfer from the Department for Work and Pensions of £460,000 in respect of Government Connect.

Take up of Departmental End Year Flexibility of £84,192,000 to increase provision for Capital Grants to Local Authorities to Support Children and Families.

Take up of Departmental End Year Flexibility of £228,000,000 to increase provision for Schools and Teachers.

A movement from non-voted of £6,567,000 to fund Children and Families.

#### *RFR2*

Take up of Departmental End Year Flexibility of £178,000,000 to promote the physical, intellectual and social development of babies and young people through Sure Start.

#### *Non-voted Capital DEL*

The £36,864,000 increase in the non-voted element of capital DEL arises from:

Take up of Departmental End Year Flexibility of £43,431,000 to support the Department's Arm's Length Bodies.

A movement to voted of £6,567,000 to fund Children and Families.

#### *Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills*

The main change to Ofsted's Resource relates to the drawn down of £3.7m Departmental Unallocated Provision. This additional Resource will be used to support Ofsted's regulation and inspection activities. Resource of £0.25m has also been transferred to Capital. This will enable Ofsted to invest in capital assets including IT equipment.

#### *Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation*

There has been no change in overall DEL limits within the Spring Supplementary.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department of Energy and Climate Change departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will increase by £154,009,000 from £3,112,598,000 to £3,266,607,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                       | £'000  |           | Change    |           | New DEL   |  |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
|                       | Voted  | Non-Voted | Voted     | Non-Voted | Total     |  |
| Resource DEL          | 47,622 | 25,395    | 454,820   | 835,759   | 1,290,579 |  |
| Of which:             |        |           |           |           |           |  |
| Administration Budget | 9,855  | -         | 117,939   | -         | 117,939   |  |
| Capital DEL*          | -768   | 85,000    | 724,751   | 1,263,182 | 1,987,933 |  |
| Less Depreciation**   | -4,529 | 1,289     | -7,516    | -4,389    | -11,905   |  |
| Total DEL             | 42,325 | 111,684   | 1,172,055 | 2,094,552 | 3,266,607 |  |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL in the table above, since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

#### *Resource DEL*

The increase in the Resource element of the DEL of £73,017,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of Resource DEL of £47,622,000 and an increase of £25,395,000 in the non-voted element of Resource DEL.

#### *Voted Resource DEL*

The £47,622,000 increase in the voted element of Resource DEL arises from:

The take up of End Year Flexibility of £43,000,000 for Carbon Capture and Storage FEED (Front End Engineering and Design) costs.

The take up of Administration End Year Flexibility of £9,855,000 for the administration costs of consumer levies.

A transfer to non-voted Resource DEL of £5,223,000.

A transfer to the Northern Ireland Executive of £10,000 for Low Carbon Buildings Programme Barnett consequential.

#### *Non-voted Resource DEL*

The £25,395,000 increase in non-voted Resource DEL arises from:

The take up of End Year Flexibility of £20,000,000 for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

A transfer from voted Resource DEL of £5,223,000.

A transfer from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of £172,000 for the Committee on Climate Change.

#### Capital DEL

The increase in the Capital element of the DEL of £84,232,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of Capital DEL of £768,000 and an increase of £85,000,000 in the non-voted element of Capital DEL.

#### Voted Capital DEL

The £768,000 decrease in the voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

An increase of £1,000,000 in non-operating appropriations-in-aid for Energy Efficiency Loan repayments formerly scored as Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts.

A transfer from the Ministry of Justice of £337,000 for the repayment of Energy Efficiency Loan paid as Grant to the National Offender Management Service.

A transfer to the Northern Ireland Executive of £105,000 for Low Carbon Buildings Programme Barnett consequentials.

#### Non-voted Capital DEL

The £85,000,000 increase in the non-voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

The take up of End Year Flexibility of £84,000,000 for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

A decrease of £1,000,000 in Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts for Energy Efficiency Loan repayments, now scored as non-operating appropriations-in-aid.

#### Administration budget

The increase of £9,855,000 in the Administration Budget arises from:

The take up of End Year Flexibility of £9,855,000 for the administration costs of consumer levies.

#### Ofgem—Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Office of Gas and Electricity Market's DEL will decrease by £250,000 from £1,351,000 to £1,101,000 and the administration budget will decrease by £250,000 from £1,401,000 to £1,151,000.

|                       | Change |       | New DEL   |       |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|
|                       | £'000  | Voted | Non-voted | Total |
| Resource DEL          |        | -250  | 451       | 700   |
| Of which:             |        |       |           |       |
| Administration budget |        | -250  | 451       | 700   |
| Capital DEL*          |        | 0     | 950       | 0     |
| Less Depreciation**   |        | 0     | -1000     | 0     |
| Total DEL             |        | -250  | 401       | 700   |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from Total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The decrease of £250,000 in the Administration Budget within the Resource element of the DEL arises from a switch to Annually Managed Expenditure to cover take-up and utilisation of provisions.

There is no change in the capital element of the DEL.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £45,893,000 (1.67%) from £2,755,111,000 to £2,801,004,000. The administration budget will remain unchanged £282,088,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

|                       | £'000   |           | Change |           | New DEL    |           |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|                       | Voted   | Non-voted | Total  | Voted     | Non-voted  | Total     |
| Resource              | -11,848 | 27,591    | 15,743 | 3,695,767 | -1,262,951 | 2,432,816 |
| of which:             |         |           |        |           |            |           |
| Administration Budget | -       | -         | -      | 282,088   | -          | 282,088   |
| Capital               | -150    | 30,300    | 30,150 | 122,977   | 454,887    | 577,864   |
| Depreciation*         | -       | -         | -      | -100,441  | -109,235   | -209,676  |
| Total                 | -11,998 | 57,891    | 45,893 | 3,718,303 | -917,299   | 2,801,004 |

\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*The change in the resource element of the DEL of £15,743,000 arises from:* (i) a transfer of £172,000 to the Department of Energy and Climate Change for information services at the Committee for Climate Change; (ii) a transfer of £65,000 to the Ministry of Justice for the Tribunal Service relating to appeals for civil sanctions; (iii) a transfer of £130,000 to DEFRA from the Department for International Development for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; (iv) a transfer of £46,000,000 from the 2011-12 ring-fenced EU disallowance provision to cover pressures in the 2010-11 budget which have arisen due to the timing of when the disallowance payments are accrued; (v) a transfer of £30,000,000 from Resource to Capital DEL for the Environment Agency (EA) in respect of flood defences where the exact nature and classification of the expenditure is determined by EA as they undertake the work; and (vi) a transfer of £150,000 from Resource to Capital DEL payments for the Fallen Stock Company.

*There has also been a transfer within the resource element of the DEL of £11,591,000 from voted to non-voted,* (i) £16,377,000 relating to budget transfers from the core Department (voted) to the Department's Non Departmental Public Bodies (non-voted), mainly Natural England, EA and the Joint Nature and Conservation Committee; and (ii) £4,786,000 relates to increases in income and expenditure for the Rural Payments Agency scheme payments. This change is DEL neutral, but the expenditure is classed as voted, whereas the income is classed as non-voted consolidated fund extra receipts.

There is no change in the depreciation budget.

*The change in the capital element of the DEL of £30,150,000 arises from:* (i) a transfer of £30,000,000 from Resource to Capital DEL for EA in respect of flood defences where the exact nature and classification



of the expenditure is determined by EA as they undertake the work; and (ii) a transfer of £150,000 from Resource to Capital DEL payments for the Fallen Stock Company.

*There has also been a transfer within the capital element of the DEL of £300,000 from voted to non-voted relating to a budget transfer from the core Department (voted) to the Marine Management Organisation, a non-voted Non Departmental Public Body.*

#### Water Services Regulation Authority (Prior Period Adjustments)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon):** Ofwat's Prior Period Adjustments (PPA) following the Chief Secretary's decision that departments will not be including PPA's on the face on estimates for 2010-11 for the alteration of the IAS 35 standard and in respect of the removal of costs of capital charge from accounts, budgets and estimates are as follows:

##### *Prior Period Adjustments*

##### *Non-Voted*

##### *Cost of capital charge*

Costs of capital charges (CCC) have been removed from accounts, budgets and supply estimates in accordance with HM Treasury's Consolidated Budgeting Guidance (CBG). However, the department had liabilities greater than its assets and so attracted a cost of capital credit. The removal of the CCC increases resources in DEL. The PPA in respect of the previous two years is shown in the table below.

##### *Summary table*

|                     | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Cost capital credit | 183     | 267     |
| Total               | 183     | 267     |

#### FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

##### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £75,228,000 from the £2,223,026,000 in the winter supplementary estimate to £2,298,254,000. The administration budget will be increased by £6,059,000 from the £484,698,000 in the winter supplementary estimate to £490,757,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

|           | Change £'000 |           |           | New DEL £'000 |           |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
|           | Voted        | Non-Voted | Voted     | Non-Voted     | Total     |
| Resource  | 97,069       | -15,000   | 2,221,450 | 14,000        | 2,235,450 |
| Of which: |              |           |           |               |           |

|                       | Change £'000 |           |           | New DEL £'000 |           |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
|                       | Voted        | Non-Voted | Voted     | Non-Voted     | Total     |
| Administration budget | 21,059       | -15,000   | 489,127   | 1,630         | 490,757   |
| Capital*              | -841         | -         | 167,854   | -             | 167,854   |
| Depreciation**        | -6,000       | -         | -105,050  | -             | -105,050  |
| Total                 | 90,228       | -15,000   | 2,284,254 | 14,000        | 2,298,254 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Voted and non-voted Resource DEL has increased from £2,153,381,000 in the Winter Supplementary Estimate to £2,235,450,000. The administration and programme elements of this net increase are set out below:

##### *Request for Resources 1*

##### *Administration*

I. Take up of £6,000,000 Administration EYF in respect of Non-Cash Depreciation.

II. Transfer of £59,000 Administration from the Department for International Development in respect of a refund for the Stabilisation Unit.

III. Take up of £15,000,000 Departmental Unallocated Provision from non-voted DEL.

Total voted administration changes amounting to £21,059,000 result in a voted Resource increase on the Winter Supplementary from £468,068,000 to £489,127,000.

IV. A reduction in non-voted Administration of £15,000,000 due to take-up of Departmental Unallocated Provision.

Total non-voted administration decreases amounting to £15,000,000 result in a non-voted Resource DEL decrease on the Winter Supplementary from £16,630,000 to £1,630,000.

##### *Programme*

I. A claim on the Reserve of £30,000,000 Programme costs in respect of Consular Premiums.

II. A claim on the Reserve of £43,000,000 current grants in respect the International Subscriptions cost sharing agreement.

III. A transfer of £200,000 current grants from the FCO to the Ministry of Justice in respect of the costs associated with victims of overseas terrorism.

IV. A transfer of £200,000 Programme from the Department for International Development in respect of UK-India Collaboration on Energy Efficiency and Trading.

##### *Request for Resources 2*

##### *Programme*

I. A claim on the Reserve of £556,000 for take-up of the balance of the Peacekeeping fund.

II. A transfer of £1,400,000 from the Department for International Development to the FCO in respect of Conflict Prevention.

III. A transfer of £1,000,000 from the Department for International Development to the FCO in respect of the Conflict Pool.

IV. A transfer of £108,000 from the Department for International Development to the FCO in respect of Conflict Prevention Activity.



V. Transfer of £54,000 to the Security Intelligence Agencies for expansion and capability.

Total voted administration and programme changes amounting to £97,069,000 result in a voted Resource DEL increase on the Winter Supplementary from £2,124,381,000 to £2,221,450,000.

Total non-voted administration and programme decreases amounting to £15,000,000 result in a non-voted Resource DEL decrease on the Winter Supplementary from £29,000,000 to £14,000,000.

#### Capital

I. A transfer of £841,000 capital from the FCO to the Identity and Passport Office in respect of a contribution towards the Online Passport Application System.

Total voted Capital DEL has decreased by £841,000 from £168,695,000 in the Winter Supplementary to £167,854,000. We have no non-voted Capital DEL.

The sum of all these changes to our Resource and Capital DEL minus depreciation is to make our Total voted and non-voted DEL £2,298,254,000.

## HEALTH

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns):** Subject to the necessary supplementary estimates, the Department of Health's element of the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will reduce by £789,000 from £106,281,232,000, to £106,280,443,000 the administration cost limit remains unchanged at £215,280,000. The Food Standards Agency DEL remains unchanged at £114,930,000. The administration cost limit remains unchanged at £50,910,000. The overall DEL including the Food Standards Agency will reduce by £789,000 from £106,396,162,000 to £106,395,373,000. The impact on resource and capital is set out in the following table:

|                                                            | Voted<br>£m | Change<br>Non<br>voted<br>£m | Voted £m    | Non<br>voted<br>£m | New DEL<br>Total<br>£m |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Department of Health                                       |             |                              |             |                    |                        |
| Resource DEL, of which                                     | 299.211     | 300.000                      | 101,440.252 | -56.661            | 101,383.591            |
| Administration Budget                                      | -           | -                            | 210.280     | 5.000              | 215.280                |
| Capital DEL*                                               | -           | 0                            | 2,150.189   | 2,746.663          | 4,896.852              |
| Total Department of Health DEL                             | 299.211     | 300.000                      | 103,590.441 | 2,690.002          | 106,280.443            |
| Depreciation**                                             | -           | -                            | -1,119.419  | 0                  | -1,119.419             |
| Total Department of Health spending<br>(after adjustment)  | 299.211     | 300.000                      | 102,471.022 | 2,690.002          | 105,161.024            |
| Food Standards Agency                                      |             |                              |             |                    |                        |
| Resource DEL, of which                                     | -2.661      | 2.661                        | 111.668     | 2.661              | 114.329                |
| Administration Budget                                      | -0.469      | 0.469                        | 50.441      | 0.469              | 50.910                 |
| Capital DEL*                                               | -           | -                            | 0.601       | -                  | 0.601                  |
| Total Food Standards Agency DEL                            | -2.661      | 2.661                        | 112.269     | 2.661              | 114.930                |
| Depreciation**                                             | -           | -                            | -1.861      | -                  | -1.861                 |
| Total Food Standards Agency<br>spending (after adjustment) | -2.661      | 2.661                        | 110.408     | 2.661              | 113.069                |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since the capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Department of Health DEL has reduced by £789,000, this comprises:

a transfer of £211,000 from the Ministry of Justice mainly for prison healthcare services; and

a transfer of £1,000,000 to the Ministry of Justice for costs associated with the transfer of mental health review tribunals.

The Department of Health's administration cost limit is unchanged.

The Food Standards Agency DEL figure remains unchanged overall, but there has been a switch from voted DEL to non voted DEL of £2,661,000. This is reducing voted DEL expenditure and increasing non voted DEL for the utilisation of pension and early retirement provisions. This is consistent with the Food Standards Agency increase in AME figures.

The Food Standards Agency's administration costs limit is unchanged.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Home Office's departmental expenditure limits for 2010-11 will be reduced by £46,805,000 from £9,975,064,000 to £9,928,259,000 and the administration budget will be reduced by £2,722,000 from £392,510,000 to £389,788,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                                                                                                                                                                                            | Change   |           |           | New DEL                      |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                            | Voted    | Non-voted | Voted     | Non-voted                    | £'000 Total |
| Resource DRT,                                                                                                                                                                              | 130,196  | (116,318) | 8,529,448 | 903,767                      | 9,433,215   |
| of which:                                                                                                                                                                                  |          |           |           |                              |             |
| Administration budget                                                                                                                                                                      | 38,009   | (40,731)  | 251,214   | 138,574                      | 389,788     |
| Capital DEL*                                                                                                                                                                               | 15,970   | (2,129)   | 604,431   | 173,632                      | 778,063     |
| Less Depreciation**                                                                                                                                                                        | (73,749) | (775)     | (224,778) | (58,241)                     | (283,019)   |
| Total DEL                                                                                                                                                                                  | 72,417   | (119,222) | 8,909,101 | 1,019,158                    | 9,928,259   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                            |          |           |           |                              | £000's      |
| (a)                                                                                                                                                                                        |          |           |           | olw<br>Non-cash<br>ringfence | olw Admin   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                            |          |           | Total     |                              |             |
| The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:                                                                                                                                 |          |           | 13,878    | 74,524                       | (2,722)     |
| Transfers from other Government Departments:                                                                                                                                               |          |           | 10        | 0                            | 10          |
| Admin from the Ministry of Justice to the UK Border Agency (section D) for training on how to restrain people on aircraft.                                                                 |          |           | 10        |                              | 10          |
| Transfers to other Government Departments:                                                                                                                                                 |          |           | (3,132)   | (386)                        | (2,732)     |
| Admin from Central Services (section F) to the Ministry of Justice for shared accommodation costs.                                                                                         |          |           | (2,556)   | (210)                        | (2,556)     |
| Programme from the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section C) to the Ministry of Justice to help victims of overseas terrorism.                                                 |          |           | (400)     |                              |             |
| Admin from the Crime and Policing Group (section A) to the Serious Fraud Office for asset write down costs.                                                                                |          |           | (176)     | (176)                        | (176)       |
| End Year Flexibility:                                                                                                                                                                      |          |           | 17,000    | 17,000                       | 0           |
| Programme to section D to meet the UK Border Agency's anticipated non cash costs.                                                                                                          |          |           | 17,000    | 17,000                       |             |
| Switch from non ringfence to ringfence funds:                                                                                                                                              |          |           | 0         | 57,910                       | 0           |
| Within the Departmental Unallocated Provision switch ringfenced cash to non-cash ringfenced funds.                                                                                         |          |           |           | 57,910                       |             |
| (b)                                                                                                                                                                                        |          |           |           | Capital                      | Total       |
| The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:                                                                                                                                  |          |           |           |                              | 13,841      |
| End Year Flexibility:                                                                                                                                                                      |          |           |           |                              | 13,000      |
| Capital grants to the Crime and Policing Group (section A) to provide rescue aid to the Forensic Science Service.                                                                          |          |           |           |                              | 13,000      |
| Transfers from other Government Departments:                                                                                                                                               |          |           |           |                              | 7,600       |
| Capital grant from the Ministry of Justice to Central Services (section F) in return for the transfer of Ashley House (see entry under 'Transfers to other government departments' below). |          |           |           |                              | 6,759       |
| Capital from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Identity and Passport Service (section E) for a contribution towards the purchase of new passport issuing equipment.               |          |           |           |                              | 841         |
| Transfers to other Government Departments:                                                                                                                                                 |          |           |           |                              | (6,759)     |
| Transfer of Ashley House from Central Services (section F) to the Ministry of Justice in return for a capital grant (see entry under 'Transfers from other government departments' above). |          |           |           |                              | (6,759)     |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

The Secretary of State for International Development  
(Mr Andrew Mitchell): Subject to parliamentary approval

of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for International Development's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £1,218,000 from £7,544,104,000 to £7,545,322,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                       | Change |           | New DEL   |           | £'000     |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                       | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted     | Non-voted |           |
| Resource DEL          | 68,482 | -77,438   | 5,091,693 | 908,190   | 5,999,883 |
| Of which:             |        |           |           |           |           |
| Administration budget | -2,658 | 2,432     | 151,986   | 5,432     | 157,418   |
| Capital DEL*          | 25,264 | -19,264   | 1,762,265 | -200,000  | 1,562,265 |
| Less Depreciation**   | 4,174  | -         | -16,826   | -         | -16,826   |
| Total DEL             | 97,920 | -96,702   | 6,837,132 | 708,190   | 7,545,322 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and Accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of the resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of these assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the Resource element of DEL arises from:

#### Voted

Transfers out to other Government Departments, including those relating to the jointly managed conflict prevention pool and aid stabilisation fund. This sits on Department for International Development's baseline but is shared between Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence. Budget transfers relate to expenditure managed by these other Government Departments.

-£1,118,000:

-£1,000,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the joint conflict prevention pool (RfR2).

-£59,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the joint stabilisation unit (RfR2).

-£59,000 transferred to the Ministry of Defence in respect of the joint stabilisation unit (RfR2).

|                                           |              |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Use of departmental unallocated provision | £106,790,000 |
| Increase in EC attribution                | -£23,045,000 |
| Increase in utilisation of provisions     | -£8,145,000  |
| Transfer to CDEL                          | -£6,000,000  |
| Subtotal voted                            | £68,482,000  |

#### Non-voted

Transfers out to other Government Departments, including those relating to the jointly managed Conflict Prevention Pool and Aid Stabilisation Fund. This sits on Department for International Development's baseline but is shared between Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence. Budget transfers relate to expenditure managed by these other Government Departments.

-£1,838,000:

-£1,400,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of conflict prevention for Afghanistan.

-£200,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the UK-India collaboration on energy efficiency and trading.

-£130,000 transferred to DEFRA in respect of the international treaty on plant genetic resources.

-£108,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of conflict prevention for Africa.

|                                           |               |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Use of departmental unallocated provision | -£106,790,000 |
| Increase in EC attributed aid             | £23,045,000   |
| Increase in utilisation of provisions     | £8,145,000    |
| Subtotal non-voted                        | -£77,438,000  |
| Total Reductions in RDEL                  | -£8,956,000   |

The change in the Capital element of DEL arises from:

|                                           |              |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Voted                                     |              |
| Transfer from RDEL                        | £6,000,000   |
| Use of Departmental Unallocated Provision | £19,264,000  |
| Subtotal voted                            | £25,264,000  |
| Non-voted                                 |              |
| Use of Departmental Unallocated Provision | -£19,264,000 |
| Subtotal non-voted                        | -£19,264,000 |
| Total increases in CDEL                   | £6,000,000   |

## JUSTICE

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and The National Archives (TNA) and the UK Supreme Court (UKSC) total departmental expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased as follows:

Total DEL for MOJ (request for resource 1, 2 and 3) is increased by £95,593,000 from £9,099,706,000 to £9,195,299,000 and the administration budget has increased by £61,577,000 from £416,230,000 to £477,807,000.

Total DEL for the TNA will be decreased by £155,000 from £39,272,000 to £39,117,000.

Total DEL for the UKSC will be increased by a token £1,000.

Within the total DEL change for MOJ (request for resource 1, 2 and 3), the impact on resource and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                 | Change   |           | New DEL   |           | £'000     |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                 | Voted    | Non-voted | Voted     | Non-voted |           |
| Resource DEL    | (78,327) | 161,103   | 5,672,950 | 3,343,099 | 9,016,049 |
| Of which:       |          |           |           |           |           |
| Administration* | 61,577   | -         | 477,265   | 542       | 477,807   |
| Capital DEL**   | (2,585)  | 1,612     | 550,340   | 43,017    | 593,357   |
| Depreciation*** | 14,163   | (373)     | (400,816) | (13,291)  | (414,107) |
| Total DEL       | (66,749) | 162,342   | 5,822,474 | 3,372,825 | 9,195,299 |

\*The total of administration budget and "near-cash in resource DEL" figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

\*\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.



*1. The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for MOJ arises from:*

*Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit*

The change in the resource DEL arises from:

*Movements in Voted Expenditure*

*Request for Resources 1*

*Increase*

- i. An increase of £36,000,000 in end-year flexibility (EYF) in relation to modernisation funding.
- ii. An increase of £195,000 in relation to a machinery of government change to transfer the costs of the Joint Youth Justice Policy Unit from the Department for Education.
- iii. An increase of £1,847,000 in relation to a transfer from the Home Office for the operating costs associated with Grenadier House.
- iv. An increase of £709,000 in relation to a transfer from the Home Office for the operating costs associated with Ashley House.
- v. An increase of £1,000,000 in relation to a transfer from the Department of Health for the Mental Health Review Tribunal.
- vi. An increase of £65,000 in relation to a transfer from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs associated to the Environmental Tribunal.
- vii. An increase of £2,500,000 in relation to the contribution from the Department for Communities and Local Government in the 7 July inquests.
- viii. An increase of £20,000,000 in relation to IFRIC 12 and the treatment of PFI prisons.
- ix. An increase of £20,000,000 in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Youth Justice Board.
- x. An increase of £770,000 in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Parole Board.

*Decrease*

- xi. A decrease of £10,000 in relation to a transfer to the Home Office for the review of restraint techniques on aircraft.
- xii. A decrease of £211,000 in relation to a transfer to the Department of Health for prisoner health care costs.
- xiii. A decrease of £250,000 in relation to a transfer to the Department for Education for women offender family intervention projects.
- xiv. A decrease of £208,000 in relation to a transfer to the Welsh Assembly Government for health care costs at Cardiff prison.
- xv. A decrease of £197,000 in relation to a transfer to Department of Business Innovation and Skills for education costs.
- xvi. A decrease of £2,500,000 in relation to a transfer to Department for Communities and Local Government for Ministry of Justice contribution to the Open Data project.
- xvii. A decrease of £14,000,000 in relation to the effects of IFRIC 12 and the treatment of PFI prisons.
- xviii. A decrease of £40,000,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

xix. A decrease of £44,000,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Community Legal Service.

xx. A decrease of £56,000,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the criminal defence service.

xxi. A decrease of £373,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Information Commissioner.

xxii. A decrease of £7,500,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Legal Services Commission.

*Request for Resources 2*

*Increase*

i. An increase of £1,900,000 in voted expenditure due to an EYF draw-down.

*Request for Resources 3*

*Increase*

i. An increase of £1,300,000 in voted expenditure due to an EYF draw-down.

ii. An increase of £636,000 in voted expenditure offset by a reduction in capital expenditure.

*Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure*

*Request for Resources 1*

*Increase*

iii. An increase of £17,000,000 in EYF in relation to pleural plaques compensation scheme.

iv. An increase of £1,400,000 in EYF in relation to victims of overseas terrorism compensation scheme.

v. An increase of £400,000 in relation to the contribution from the Home Office for victims of overseas terrorism compensation scheme.

vi. An increase of £200,000 in relation to the contribution from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for victims of overseas terrorism compensation scheme.

vii. An increase of £40,000,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

viii. An increase of £373,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Information Commissioner.

ix. An increase of £44,000,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the community legal service.

x. An increase of £56,000,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the criminal defence service.

xi. An increase of £7,500,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Legal Services Commission.



*Decrease*

xii. A decrease of £770,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Parole Board.

xiii. A decrease of £20,000,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Youth Justice Board.

*Request for Resources 2**Increase*

i. An increase of £125,784,000 in non-budget expenditure in relation to a grant to the Scottish Parliament.

ii. An increase of £15,000,000 in non-voted expenditure in relation to Scottish Parliament elections.

*Request for Resources 3**Increase*

i. An increase of £141,066,000 in non-budget expenditure in relation to a grant to the Welsh Assembly Government.

*Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit*

The change in the capital departmental expenditure limit arises from:

*Movements in Voted Expenditure**Request for Resources 1**Increase*

i. An increase of £750,000 in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Information Commissioner.

*Decrease*

ii. A decrease of £337,000 in relation to a transfer to the Department for Energy and Climate Change for Salix project.

iii. A decrease of £187,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Parole Board.

iv. A decrease of £175,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Legal Services Commission.

v. A decrease of £2,000,000 in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Office of Legal Complaints.

*Request for Resources 3*

i. A decrease of £636,000 in voted capital expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure.

*Movements in Non-voted Expenditure**Request for Resources 1**Increase*

i. An increase of £187,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Parole Board.

ii. An increase of £175,000 in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Legal Services Commission.

iii. An increase of £2,000,000 in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Office of Legal Complaints.

*Decrease*

iv. A decrease of £750,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Information Commissioner.

*Administration Costs*

The movement in the administration cost limit is as a result of the following changes:

*Request for Resources 1**Increase*

i. An increase of £36,000,000 in EYF in relation to modernisation funding.

ii. An increase of £19,000,000 in relation to the sale of Abell House and Cleland House.

iii. An increase of £195,000 in relation to a machinery of government change to transfer the costs of the Joint Youth Justice Policy Unit from the Department for Education.

iv. An increase of £1,847,000 in relation to a transfer from the Home Office of the operating costs associated with Grenadier House.

v. An increase of £709,000 in relation to a transfer from the Home Office of the operating costs associated with Ashley House.

*Decrease*

i. A decrease of £10,000 in voted expenditure in relation to a transfer to the Home Office for the review of restraint techniques on aircraft.

*Request for Resources 2**Increase*

ii. An increase of £1,900,000 in voted expenditure due to an EYF draw-down.

*Request for Resources 3**Increase*

xiv. An increase of £1,300,000 in voted expenditure due to an EYF draw-down.

xv. An increase of £636,000 in voted expenditure offset by a reduction in capital expenditure.

*2. The National Archives are not submitting a Spring Supplementary Estimate.*

However within the total DEL change for TNA, the impact on resource and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                | Change |           | New DEL |           | £'000   |
|----------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted   | Non-voted |         |
| Resource DEL   | -      | -         | 40,060  | -         | 40,060  |
| Of which       |        |           |         |           |         |
| Administration |        |           |         |           |         |
| Capital DEL*   | (155)  |           | 6,042   |           | 6,042   |
| Depreciation** |        |           | (6,985) |           | (6,985) |

|           | Change |           | New DEL |           | £'000  |
|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
|           | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted   | Non-voted |        |
| Total DEL | (155)  | (120)     | 39,117  | -         | 39,117 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the capital DEL arises from the reduction of £155,000 from TNA's 2010-11 allocation as a result of the 2009-10 capital DEL breach of the same amount.

### 3. Supreme Court (UKSC)

Within the total DEL change for the Supreme Court, the impact on resource and capital are as set out in the following table:

|                | Change |           | New DEL |           | £'000 |
|----------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------|
|                | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted   | Non-voted |       |
| Resource DEL   | 1      | (120)     | 3,424   | 2,762     | 6,186 |
| Of which       |        |           |         |           |       |
| Administration |        |           |         |           |       |
| Capital DEL*   | 120    |           | 220     |           | 220   |
| Depreciation** |        |           | 2,040   |           | 2,040 |
| Total DEL      | 121    | (120)     | 1,604   | 2,762     | 4,366 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

### 1. The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for Supreme Court arises from:

#### Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource DEL arises from:

#### Movements in Voted Expenditure

##### Increase

- An increase of £1,000 being a token increase in order to allow an increase in the appropriations-in-aid to be included in the estimate.

#### Movements in Non Voted Expenditure

##### Decrease

- A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £120,000 in relation to transfer from judicial salaries to capital DEL.

#### Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the capital DEL limit arises from:

#### Movements in Voted Expenditure

##### Increase

- An increase of £120,000 in voted expenditure in relation to the transfer from judicial salaries.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any supplementary estimate, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) total DEL will increase by £13,685,000 from £34,158,000 to £47,843,000.

Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

| £'000        | Change |           | New DEL |           | Total   |
|--------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
|              | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted   | Non-voted |         |
| Resource     | 1,743  | 3,625     | 35,913  | 5,327     | 41,244  |
| Admin Budget | 1,392  | -         | 18,143  | -         | 18,143  |
| Capital      | 8,317  | -         | 8,757   | -         | 8,757   |
| Depreciation |        |           | (2,100) | (58)      | (2,158) |
| Total DEL    | 10,060 | 3,625     | 42,574  | 5,269     | 47,843  |

The change in resource element of DEL arises from:

A transfer of £1,543,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive in respect of the outstanding machinery of government and other budgetary changes as a result of Stage 2 devolution which were not reflected in the Winter Supplementary Estimate;

A transfer of £200,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive for preparatory costs of the 2011 elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly; and

A claim on the DEL reserve of £3,625,000 for the 2010 General Election.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

A transfer of £8 million from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport relating to the funding for minority language issues as part of Stage 2 devolution; and

A transfer of £317,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive in respect of the remaining machinery of government and other budgetary changes as a result of Stage 2 devolution which were not reflected in the winter supplementary estimate.

Subject to parliamentary approval of any supplementary estimate, the Northern Ireland Executive total DEL will increase increased by £175,339,000 from £10,826,546,000 to £11,001,885,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

|                               | Change<br>£000 | New DEL<br>£000 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Resource DEL                  | 188,910        | 10,120,615      |
| Capital DEL                   | -13,571        | 1,209,335       |
| Resource DEL + Capital DEL    | 175,339        | 11,329,950      |
| Less Depreciation             | -              | 328,065         |
| Total DEL net of depreciation | 175,339        | 11,001,885      |

The change in the resource DEL arises from:

The take up of DEL End year flexibility of £96,435,000;

A transfer of £56,722 from capital DEL to resource DEL;

Net transfers totalling £1,543,000 to the Northern Ireland Office. These transfers are part of the outstanding budgetary changes arising from stage 2 devolution;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £67,646,000 for Policing and Justice;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £50,000,000 for ring-fenced Student Loans;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £8,200,000 in respect of Barnett consequentials arising from modernisation of DWP;

A reduction of £89,560,000 which represents the NIE share of the £6 billion reductions announced in May 2010;

A transfer of £10,000, from the Department of Energy and Climate Change for the Low Carbon Initiative; and  
A transfer of £200,000 to the Northern Ireland Office for preparatory costs of the 2011 elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The change in the capital DEL arises from:

A transfer of £31,112,000 to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for the agreed share of the Launch Investment which is to be paid to Bombardier Inc and Short Brothers PLC for the C Series;

A transfer of £105,000, from the Department of Energy and Climate Change for the Low Carbon Initiative;

The take up of DEL End year flexibility of £120,623,000;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £12,900,000 for Policing and Justice;

A reduction of £38,248,000 which represents the NIE share of the £6 billion reductions announced in May 2010;

A reduction of £23,000,000 in respect of the carry forward of capital DEL to 2011-12;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £2,200,000 in respect of Barnett consequentials arising from modernisation of DWP;

A transfer of £56,722 from capital DEL to resource DEL; and

A transfer of £317,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive. This is part of the outstanding budgetary changes arising from stage 2 devolution that were not processed in the winter supplementary estimate.

The effect of the above changes is to increase the grant payable to the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund by £683,000,000 to £15,253,000,000.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

#### The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore):

Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimates, the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) provision for the administration of the Scotland Office (including the office of the Advocate-General for Scotland) will be increased by £1,900,000 and this takes account of the take-up of resource DEL End Year Flexibility of £1,900,000.

Scotland Office spending is contained within the single Ministry of Justice departmental expenditure limit and administration costs limit.

The Scotland DEL will be decreased by £116,335,000 from £28,703,787,000 to £28,587,452,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

|                            | £'000 | Change   | New DEL    |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|------------|
| Resource DEL               |       | -16,335  | 25,841,119 |
| Capital DEL                |       | -100,000 | 3,288,567  |
| Resource DEL + Capital DEL |       | -116,335 | 29,129,686 |
| Less Depreciation          |       | -        | 542,234    |
| Total DEL                  |       | -116,335 | 28,587,452 |

The decrease in the Scotland DEL takes account of the following adjustments to the Scottish Government provision:

A DEL Reduction of £130,000,000 (£30,000,000 resource and £100,000,000 capital);

A claim on the DEL reserve of £28,665,000 for Student Loans Subsidy (cost of loan interest capping); and

A transfer of £15,000,000 to the Scotland Office to cover the costs of the forthcoming Scottish Parliament Election.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Solicitor-General (Mr Edward Garnier):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £1,000 from £697,852,000 to £697,853,000.

Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

|                       | Change |           |         | New DEL   | £'000   |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                       | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted   | Non-voted | Total   |
| Resource DEL          | 805    | -673      | 659,882 | 35,509    | 695,391 |
| of which:             |        |           |         |           |         |
| Administration budget | 1      | -         | 60,949  | -         | 60,949  |
| Capital DEL*          | 45     | -         | 11,885  | -         | 11,885  |
| Less Depreciation**   | -176   | -         | -9,423  | -         | -9,423  |
| Total DEL             | 674    | -673      | 662,344 | 35,509    | 697,853 |

\*Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

\*\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be unchanged at £641,427,000.

The movements within Resource DEL arise from:

The take-up of Departmental Unallocated Provision of £4,000,000 from non-voted to voted DEL to increase the spending on the prosecution of criminal cases.

An increase in the use of provisions for pension liabilities by £3,327,000 from voted to non-voted RDEL.



*The Serious Fraud Office's (SFO)* element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be unchanged at £41,546,000.

The movements within Resource DEL leading to a net change of £131,000 arise from:

The take-up of £ 176,000 of budget transfer from the Home Office for the NFA Action Fraud Programme.

A transfer of £45,000 from Resource DEL to Capital DEL

Total DEL is unchanged as depreciation costs are expected to increase by £176,000.

*The HM Procurator-General and Treasury Solicitor (TSol)* element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by a token £1,000 from £14,879,000 to £14,880,000. This increase will occur within the administration Budget which will increase from £12,945,000 to £12,946,000.

The change in Resource DEL arises from:

A token increase of £1,000 to allow a £5,000,000 increase in appropriations in aid, arising from increased fee and disbursement from clients because of increased volume of legal and related services activity, to be included in the estimate.

## TRANSPORT

### Blue Badge Reform Programme

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker):** I am today publishing the Government's plans for reforming the Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) Scheme. The measures that I am announcing will help those who rely on Blue Badges for mobility reasons. The measures will tackle rising levels of fraud and abuse, and will ensure both that badges are issued more fairly and that the scheme remains sustainable in the long term for those who rely on it most. These reforms will be delivered as soon as possible, and many within a year.

The scheme helps over 2.5 million disabled people in England retain their independence, by enabling them to park close to jobs, services and facilities. However, very few changes have been made to the scheme since it was established in the 1970s. Having listened to the views of badge holders, the general public, disabled people's groups and local authorities, it is evident that the scheme needs to be modernised to reduce current problems and deal with future challenges.

I want to ensure that the scheme focuses better on those whom it was intended to benefit. In particular, this means targeting those people who misuse and abuse it to the disadvantage of genuine badge holders. Secondly, this means ensuring that people have fair and equal access to the concession and the benefits it offers, regardless of where they live.

We are providing improved powers for local authorities to tackle abuse and fraud. This includes extending the grounds available to local authorities to refuse to issue and to withdraw badges and providing local authorities with a power to cancel badges that have been lost, stolen, have expired, or have been withdrawn for misuse. We are also providing local authority-authorised officers with an on-the-spot power to recover badges that have

been cancelled or misused. We propose to amend existing legislation to clarify wrongful use of a badge and the powers to inspect badges.

To prevent abuse from happening in the first place and to deal with rising levels of fraud and abuse, we are implementing a new badge design that is harder to copy, forge and alter. Arrangements for printing, personalising and distributing the badge are also being changed and will enable more effective monitoring of cancelled, lost and stolen badges.

We are establishing, with local authorities, a common service delivery project which could deliver operational efficiency savings of up to £20 million per year, help to reduce and prevent abuse and improve customer services. The project will also make available an online application facility which should result in faster, more automatic renewals for people whose circumstances do not change between renewal periods.

In order to ensure that badges are issued more fairly and consistently across the country, we are amending legislation to require wider use of independent mobility assessments to determine eligibility, including where previously that assessment was carried out by a GP. To support this, we are providing local authorities with control of the current national health service spend on Blue Badge assessments. In addition, new good practice guidance will be issued to local authorities to help them make improvements in scheme administration and eligibility assessment.

We are extending eligibility for a badge to some other people, to address current anomalies and issues of fairness. Eligibility is being extended to more disabled children between the ages of two and three with specific medical conditions and we are providing continuous automatic entitlement to a badge to severely disabled service personnel and veterans. We also intend to remove residency requirements for disabled service personnel and their families who are posted overseas on UK bases. This will enable them to apply for a badge.

To help cover costs more appropriately and to enable the delivery of a new badge design and the common service improvement project, we are raising the maximum fee for a badge that local authorities can charge from the £2 that it has been for nearly 30 years, to £10. The average benefit for badge holders from having a badge (and not having to pay parking charges) is estimated to be £300 over the three years for which most badges are valid. In return, badge holders will benefit from less abuse, improved accessibility and better customer services.

I am also publishing today, a summary of responses to a public consultation on the scheme.

## WALES

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Welsh Assembly Government's total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £108,565,000 from £15,178,509,000 to £15,287,074,000.



Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

|                   | Change  | £'000<br>New DEL |
|-------------------|---------|------------------|
| Resource DEL      | 27,203  | 13,884,529       |
| Capital DEL       | 81,362  | 1,754,860        |
| Less depreciation | -       | -352,315         |
| TOTAL DEL         | 108,565 | 15,287,074       |

The change in the resource DEL element arises from:

The take up of DEL end-year flexibility (EYF) of £102,547,000;

A transfer of £208,000 from the Ministry of Justice in respect of health care at Cardiff Prison;

A reduction of £113,541,000 which represents WAG's share of the £6 billion cuts announced in May 2010;

A reduction of £5,850,000 following a transfer of provision to capital DEL;

A reduction of £6,161,000 in respect of rate relief; and

A claim on the reserve of £50,000,000 in respect of impairments within the student loans ring fence.

The change in the capital DEL element arises from:

The take up of DEL end-year flexibility (EYF) of £124,519,000;

A reduction of £49,007,000 which represents WAG's share of the £6 billion cuts announced in May 2010; and

An increase of £5,850,000 following a transfer of provision from resource DEL.

As a result of these changes, the grant paid by the Wales Office to the Welsh Consolidated Fund increases by £141,066,000 from £13,314,503,000 to £13,455,569,000.

In addition the Wales Office budget will increase by £1,936,000 as a result of:

The take up of £1,300,000 resource DEL EYF; and

A switch of £636,000 from capital DEL to resource DEL.

Wales Office spending is contained within single Ministry of Justice departmental expenditure limit and administration costs limit.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Welfare to Work Contracts

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** The Government have previously announced their plans for radical reforms of the welfare to work system, starting with the nationwide implementation of the Work programme by the summer of 2011.

Until the Work programme is implemented in June 2011, DWP's top priority is to ensure that claimants are properly supported during the transition. I am therefore pleased to announce we intend to extend referrals to existing mainstream support for jobseekers (new deals and flexible new deal) until June 2011.

Jobseekers referred to existing contracts up to this point will receive a minimum 13 weeks provision and will subsequently be able to volunteer for early entry to the Work programme.

We will also be extending progress2work contracts, taking into consideration current performance when agreeing the extensions.

We will also be putting in place a new system of flexible and personalised support for ESA claimants to cover the interim period.

As current support is a patchwork of contracts, across different dates and contract areas, transition arrangements will inevitably need to be tailored to local circumstances. However, the contract extensions we are aiming to agree will mean nobody will be unsupported in the transition to the Work programme.

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith):** Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Work and Pensions Resource departmental expenditure limit will increase by £276,605,000 to £9,006,823,000 and the capital departmental expenditure limit will increase by £81,565,000 to £324,617,000. The administration budget will decrease by £233,105,000 to £5,843,600,000.

|                | Change £k |           |          | New Departmental Expenditure Limit £k |           |           |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                | Voted     | Non-voted | Total    | Voted                                 | Non-voted | Total     |
| Resource       | 1,113,922 | -837,317  | 276,605  | 6,713,147                             | 2,293,676 | 9,006,823 |
| of which:      |           |           |          |                                       |           |           |
| Administration | 560,895   | -794,000  | -233,105 | 5,104,451                             | 739,149   | 5,843,600 |
| Near-cash      | 1,113,891 | -837,286  | 276,605  | 6,455,236                             | 2,292,873 | 8,748,109 |
| Capital        | 120,955   | -39,390   | 81,565   | 312,179                               | 12,438    | 324,617   |
| Depreciation*  | 31        | -31       | 0        | 254,911                               | 803       | 255,714   |
| Total DEL      | 1,234,846 | -876,676  | 358,170  | 6,770,415                             | 2,305,311 | 9,075,726 |

\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource Departmental Expenditure Limit, is excluded from the total Departmental Expenditure Limit since the capital Departmental Expenditure Limit includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

### Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource element of the departmental expenditure limit arises from:

#### Request for Resources 1

i. A decrease in resource of £5,000,000 (administration) offset by an increase in Capital.

#### Request for Resources 2

ii. A reserve claim of £74,000,000 (Other Current) to support expenditure incurred on measures set out in the 2008 Pre Budget Report.

iii. A reserve claim of £14,349,000 (£6,069,000 administration and £8,280,000 Other Current) to support expenditure on Spend to Save measures,

iv. A reserve claim of £19,000,000 (Administration) from the Department's Modernisation Fund.

v. £2,100,000 (administration) received from the Department for Communities and

Local Government to reflect a reduction in European Social Fund programme activity by the Government Office Network.

#### *Request for Resources 3*

vi. A reserve claim of £6,000,000 (administration) from the Department's Modernisation Fund.

vii. A reserve claim of £7,602,000 (administration) to support expenditure on Spend to Save measures.

viii. A reserve claim of £1,000,000 (Other Current) to support expenditure incurred on measures focussing on delivering savings through reduced overpayments within Disability Living Allowance claims as set out in the Pre Budget Report 2009.

#### *Request for Resources 5*

ix. A reserve claim of £58,000,000 (administration) from the Department's Modernisation Fund.

x. A reserve claim of £3,749,000 (administration) to support expenditure on Spend to Save measures.

xi. A reserve claim of £99,000,000 (Other Current) to support expenditure on Staff Exits.

xii. An increase in resource of £5,000,000 (administration) offset by a decrease in Capital.

#### *Movements between Voted and Non-Voted Budgets*

xiii. An increase in voted funding offset by a decrease in non-voted funding of, for RfR2 £591,600,000 (£303,670,000 administration and £287,930,000 Other Current) and for RfR5 £78,000 (administration) resulting from accessing funds held in the Departmental Unallocated Provision which were provided in the 2009 Budget.

xiv. An increase in voted funding offset by a decrease in non-voted funding of £85,805,000 (£46,305,000 Administration and £39,500,000 Other Current) as a result of accessing funds held in the Departmental Unallocated Provision which were provided in the Welfare Reform White Paper.

xv. A decrease in non-voted funding of £3,687,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £3,687,000 relating to decreased expenditure by Working Ventures (UK) Limited.

xvi. A decrease in non-voted funding of £67,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £67,000 relating to decreased expenditure by the Independent Living Fund.

xvii. An increase in non-voted funding of £739,000 offset by a decrease in voted funding of £739,000 relating to increase expenditure by the Financial Assistance Scheme.

xviii. A decrease in non-voted funding of £1,730,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £1,730,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Pensions Regulator.

xix. A decrease in non-voted funding of £38,521,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £38,521,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

xx. A decrease in non-voted funding of £51,000 offset by an increase in voted funding of £51,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Office of the Pensions Ombudsman.

xxi. An increase in voted funding offset by a decrease in non-voted funding of £30,400,000 (administration) as a result of accessing funds held in the Departmental Unallocated Provision which were not allocated to a specific work programme at the time of the SR07 Settlement.

#### *Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit*

The change in the capital element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

#### *Request for Resources 1*

xxii. An increase in Capital of £5,000,000 offset by a decrease in Resource.

#### *Request for Resources 2*

xxiii. A reserve claim of £3,300,000 to support expenditure on Spend to Save measures.

#### *Request for Resources 5*

xxiv. A reserve claim of £72,000,000 from the Department's Modernisation Fund.

xxv. A decrease in Capital of £5,000,000 offset by an increase in Resource.

xxvi. A budget transfer of £1,470,000 to the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of the Government Connect Project.

xxvii. A budget transfer of £460,000 to the Department for Education in respect of the Government Connect Project.

#### *Movements between Voted and Non-Voted Budgets*

xxviii. An increase in voted capital funding of £8,195,000 offset by a decrease in non-voted resource funding of £8,195,000 as a result of accessing funds held in the Departmental Unallocated Provision which were provided in the Welfare Reform White Paper.

xxix. A decrease in non-voted capital funding of £9,000 offset by an increase in voted capital funding of £9,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Pensions Regulator.

xxx. A decrease in non-voted capital funding of £39,181,000 offset by an increase in voted capital funding of £39,181,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

xxxi. A decrease in non-voted capital funding of £200,000 offset by an increase in voted capital funding of £200,000 relating to decreased expenditure by The Office of the Pensions Ombudsman.

#### *Administration Costs*

The movement in the Administration Cost limit arises from the changes to the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit as noted in items i, iii, iv, v, vi, vii, ix, x, xii, xiii, xiv, xxi, and xxviii above.

# Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 15 February 2011

## TREASURY

### ECOFIN

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne):** The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 15 February 2011. The following items are on the agenda:

#### *Economic Governance*

The Council will hold a policy debate on the legislative proposals on economic governance. The Government agree that member states should have robust national fiscal frameworks. However, it will continue to work to ensure that any legislation on fiscal frameworks does not impinge upon UK fiscal sovereignty.

#### *Savings Taxation Directive and Anti-fraud Agreements with Third Countries*

Following agreement on the Administrative Co-operation Directive at ECOFIN in December, the Council will hold an orientation debate on proposals to amend the Savings Directive and to pursue anti-fraud and tax information exchange agreements with Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland. These are related measures which aim to improve transparency and exchange of information to combat cross-border tax evasion. The measures have been discussed on previous occasions but progress has been difficult due to political reservations by two member states. The Government support the presidency's aim to maintain momentum on the good governance in taxation package with a view to legislative agreement in May.

#### *Preparation of the European Council (24-25 March 2011)*

##### *a) Macro-economic and fiscal guidance*

Ministers will adopt Council conclusions on macro-economic and fiscal guidance for the EU, under the new European semester. The conclusions focus on implementing a rigorous fiscal consolidation, correcting macro-economic imbalances, ensuring stability of the financial sector, growth and job-enhancing structural reforms, and mobilising community level growth drivers. The Government believe the reform priorities set out in the conclusions are important and necessary steps to help promote economic growth in the EU and its member states.

##### *b) Appointment of an Executive Board Member of the European Central Bank*

Council will also adopt a recommendation for the European Council on the appointment of an Executive board member of the European Central Bank. Two candidates have officially been put forth to replace Austria's Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell when her eight-year term on the ECB's Executive board expires 31 May: Peter Praet, executive director of the National Bank of Belgium; and Elena Kohutikova, former member of the

Slovak central bank's monetary policy board. The Government support strong governance for the ECB, although as a non-euro area member state, the UK will not vote on this item.

#### *Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact*

The Council will discuss the assessment of action taken by Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland and Denmark in the context of their excessive deficit procedures, on the basis of a communication from the Commission. The Government expect the Council to agree that these member states have taken effective action regarding their deficits.

#### *Preparation of the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Governors (18-19 February)*

The Council will discuss and agree a terms of reference which will form the basis of the EU's contribution to the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers on 18-19 February. The meeting is scheduled to discuss: the global economy and framework for strong sustainable and balanced growth; reform of the international monetary system; commodities; financial regulation; follow-up of the report from the UN advisory group on climate change financing; and development issues.

#### *Discharge procedure in respect of the implementation of the 2009 EU budget*

Finance Ministers will discuss the Council's recommendation to the European Parliament on the 2009 discharge procedure following the report from the European Court of Auditors (ECA) on implementation of the 2009 EU budget. The Government consider it unacceptable that the ECA has not been able to grant a positive statement of assurance on the EU budget as a whole for the 16th year in succession.

#### *Budget guidelines for 2012*

Ministers will adopt conclusions on the budget guidelines for 2012. These note that rigorous fiscal consolidation efforts will continue in 2012, and it is therefore essential that the 2012 budget take into account member states' economic and budgetary constraints. They also stress the need for realistic budget estimates. The Government are determined that the efforts made to curb the EU budget's growth in 2011 must be stepped up for the 2012 budget.

### Asset Protection Agency

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban):** The interim report for the Asset Protection Agency (APA) has today been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report contains commentary on key developments in relation to the APA and the Asset Protection Scheme (APS) over the period from 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010.

I am pleased to note the statements in the report that the likelihood of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) being able to make a claim under the APS has receded slightly.

I have also placed in the Libraries a number of legal documents relating to the APS which RBS and HM Treasury have executed since RBS's accession to the scheme in December 2009. These reflect changes to the implied write down trigger for long-dated assets, revised



arrangements for the assessment of APS performance-related remuneration for relevant RBS staff, a move from annual to quarterly fee payments and a number of operational matters.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Protection of Freedoms Bill: Public Reading Stage

**The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Nick Clegg):** The Government have pledged in the coalition agreement to introduce:

"a new "public reading stage" for Bills to give the public an opportunity to comment on proposed legislation online, and a dedicated "public reading day" within a Bills Committee stage where those comments will be debated by the Committee scrutinising the Bill".

In their first report to the House, the Select Committee on Reform of the House of Commons (the "Wright Committee") noted there have been "very few individual submissions" made to Public Bill Committees. While individuals are not discouraged from participating, the Committee warned that:

"nowhere are the public positively invited to comment in any detail on the provisions of Bills or to propose amendments which might at least be worthy of debate".

The Government have an interest in ensuring that the process of making law is more transparent and open to the public, so that their legislative policies have been publicly tested at every stage from the initial proposal through to implementation.

The Government have already involved the public in generating some of the ideas contained in the Protection of Freedoms Bill through the Your Freedom website. So that this involvement can be maintained, the Government are today launching a website ([www.publicreadingstage.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.publicreadingstage.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)) that will allow the public to comment on the Protection of Freedoms Bill online, before the House of Commons commences its considerations at Second Reading.

The public's comments will be published in an appropriate form and made available to the House to assist and inform its debate and scrutiny of the Bill. The pilot will not involve changes to Standing Orders or the procedures of the House; nor will it affect the scheduling of the Bill. This pilot will allow the technology to be tested that could, subject to the views of the House, facilitate the introduction of a "public reading stage", as outlined in the coalition's programme for Government.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Equality Act 2010

**The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** I have made an authorisation under paragraph 17(4)(a) of schedule 3 to the Equality Act 2010, to enable the UK Border Agency to give greater scrutiny or priority to particular nationalities in carrying out entry clearance, border control and removals functions.

This authorisation came into force on 10 February 2011. It replaces the Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) Authorisation 2004, which came into force on 12 February 2004 and has been revoked.

The authorisation allows the UK Border Agency to target its resources effectively in managing UK immigration controls. In particular, it lets entry clearance and border control staff give greater scrutiny, and staff removing immigration offenders greater priority, to particular nationalities on the basis of statistical and intelligence-based evidence of the risk they pose to those controls.

The authorisation is made under the nationality exception for immigration functions contained in the Equality Act 2010. It replaces an equivalent authorisation for border control functions and removals made in 2004 under the Race Relations Act 1976, and allows a similar evidence-based approach to risk assessment and targeting to be applied overseas by entry clearance staff. The nationalities covered by the authorisation will be reviewed each quarter by the UK Border Agency and submitted for ministerial approval.

I have made an equivalent authorisation for Northern Ireland under article 20C of the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. This authorisation came into force on 10 February 2011.

I am placing a copy of the authorisations in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

### National DNA Database (Ethics Group)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire):** I am pleased to announce the following appointments to the Ethics Group which provides Ministers with independent ethical advice on the operation and practice of the national DNA database (NDNAD):

Professor David Latchman CBE

Dr Nina Hallowell

Professor Latchman and Dr Hallowell replace two members of the group who have now stepped down.

Eight current members of the Ethics Group have been reappointed for a further three-year term. They are:

Dr Derrick Campbell

Mrs Wendy Coates

Ms Madeleine Colvin

Dr Jane Pearson

Dr Clive Richards

Dr Sameer Sarkar

Ms Sarah Thewlis

Dr Suzy Walton

## TRANSPORT

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond):** Subject to parliamentary approval, the Department for Transport departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for 2010-11 will be decreased by £792,000 from £12,730,039,000 to £12,729,247,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital, are as set out in the following table:

|                       | Change |           | NEW DEL    |           |            |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                       | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted      | Non-voted | Total      |
| Resource              | -792   | 0         | 5,941,476  | 445,810   | 6,387,286  |
| Of which              |        |           |            |           |            |
| Administration budget | 0      | 0         | 263,948    | 2,154     | 266,102    |
| Capital               | 0      | 0         | 6,450,423  | 728,127   | 7,178,550  |
| Depreciation*         | 0      | 0         | -802,365   | -34,224   | -836,589   |
| Total                 | -792   | 0         | 11,589,534 | 1,139,713 | 12,729,247 |

\*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

**Resource Change: Programme (total decrease of £792,000)**

**Voted: total net decrease of £792,000**

#### RRI

(i) Decrease of £792,000 by transfer to the Office of the Rail Regulation, of which £550,000 is to cover the cost of releasing provisions for early departures in 2010-11 and the remainder £242,000 to meet other costs.

#### Changes in Accounting Policies

##### Prior period adjustments

##### Cost of capital charges

Costs of capital charges (CCC) have been removed from accounts, budgets and supply estimates in accordance with HM Treasury's consolidated budgeting guidance (CBG). However the Department had liabilities greater than its assets so attracted a cost of capital credit. The removal of the CCC increases resources in DEL. The prior period adjustment (PPA) in respect of the previous two years is:

|                                | 2008-09   | 2009-10   |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cost of capital credit (£'000) | 2,698,533 | 2,774,776 |

#### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers):** Subject to parliamentary approval, the Office of Rail Regulation departmental expenditure limit (DEL) and annually managed expenditure (AME) will be increased as follows:

DEL: £792,000

AME: £243,000

The impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

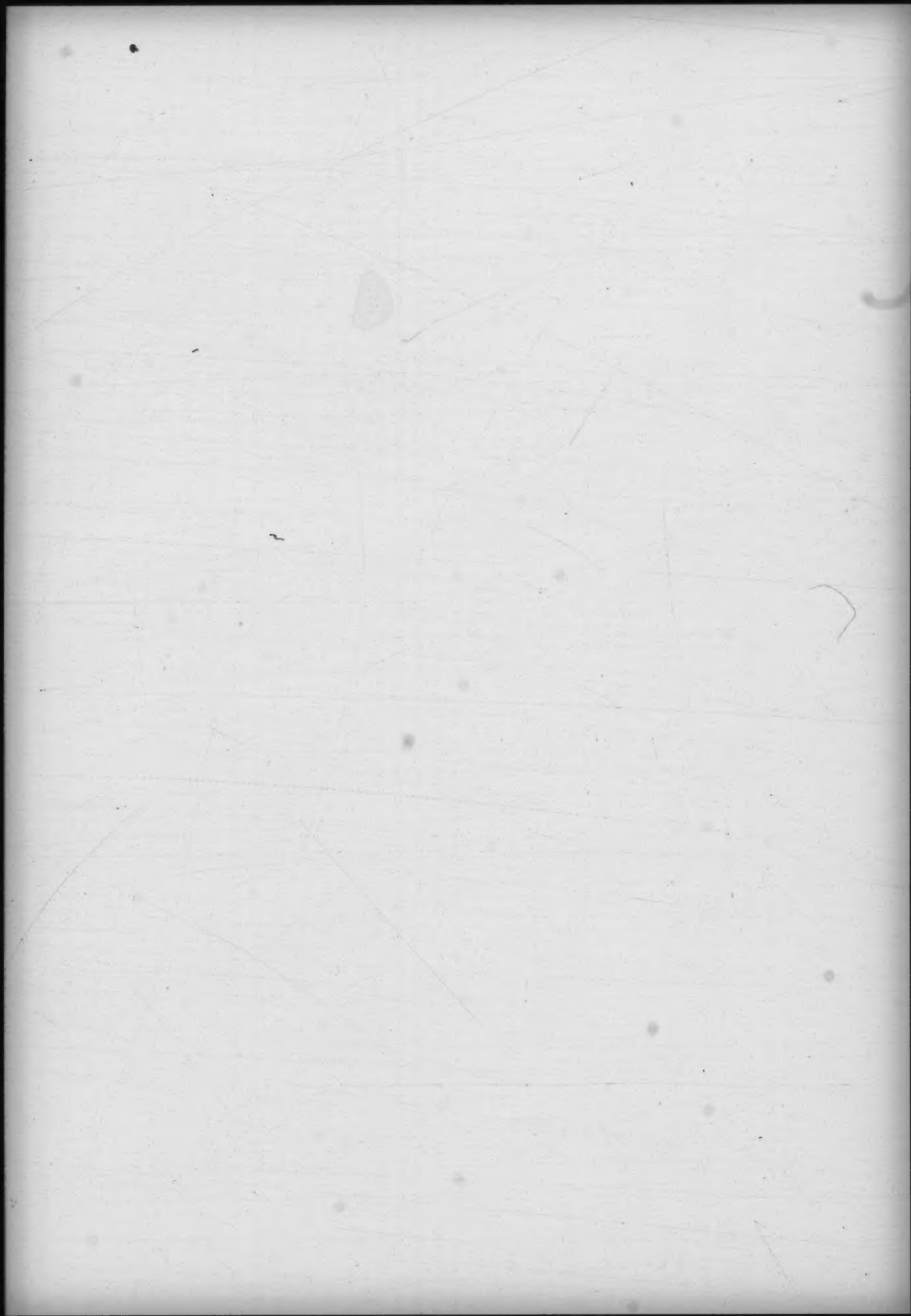
|                       | Change |           | NEW DEL |           |       |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------|
|                       | Voted  | Non-voted | Voted   | Non-voted | Total |
| Resource              | 242    | 550       | 2       | 550       | 552   |
| Of which              |        |           |         |           |       |
| Administration budget | 242    | -         | 2       | -         | 2     |
| Capital               | (450)  | -         | 350     | -         | 350   |
| Depreciation          | 150    | -         | (750)   | -         | (250) |
| Total                 | (58)   | 550       | (398)   | 550       | 52    |

The change in the resource element of DEL arises because ORR is unable to record more income than cost from the industry. £242,000 budget cover is required so that ORR can reduce the recorded negative DEL to a token vote of £2,000.

The spring supplementary also reflects ORR's cash payment £550,000 towards releasing provisions for early departures in 2010-11. ORR does not require cash to make these payments but needs to reflect the cost in non-voted DEL so that ORR does not exceed its overall DEL limit for 2010-11.

ORR needs to increase its provision due to staff changes that will take place. The spring supplementary shows a further £243,000 (non-cash) being added to a provision initially created in the main estimate. These AME costs will be recovered from the rail industry.

These changes are of a technical nature to ensure that ORR keeps within its DEL and AME limits. ORR is funded by the railway industry and anticipates an underspend against its gross budget of circa £2,000,000 this year.





## Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 16 February 2011

### CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

#### 50th Horserace Betting Levy

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt):** On 1 November 2010 the Chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board ("the HBLB") informed me that the HBLB had been unable to approve a recommendation from the Bookmakers' Committee as to the terms of the 50th levy scheme. Under section 1(2) of the Horserace Betting Levy Act 1969, therefore, it falls to me to determine those terms.

I have considered the parties' submissions, taking into account their representations on what target amount would reflect the capacity of bookmakers to pay, what it is reasonable to expect bookmakers to pay and what the reasonable needs of horseracing are in all the circumstances.

Under section 1(3)(a) of the Act, I have decided to determine a new levy scheme for the 50th levy period (running from April 2011 to March 2012), under which the following terms will apply:

The headline rate of levy will increase by 7.5% from 10% to 10.75% for licensed betting offices ("LBOs") as well as for telephone and internet betting operators (including betting exchanges).

The "threshold" level beneath which LBOs pay an abated rate of levy will be reduced to £50,000.

The levy will continue to be payable only in respect of profits arising on bets placed in relation to British horseracing.

The rate of levy for bookmakers who derive their gross profit from spread betting businesses will increase by 7.5% from 2% to 2.15%.

The flat fee for on-course bookmakers will increase (in line with RPI) to £210, whereas those bookmakers standing solely at point-to-point events, harness racing and/or trotting the flat fee will increase (in line with RPI) to £166.

The amount payable in advance by LBOs, telephone and internet betting operators will continue to be calculated on the basis of their liability under previous schemes—subject to an uplift of 7.5%.

I estimate that this will produce levy proceeds of between £73.7 million—£80.8 million (with a mid-range figure of £77.25 million), and believe that terms outlined above represent a fair deal for bookmakers and horseracing.

I am today writing to the Bookmakers' Committee, British horseracing and the Government-appointed Members of the HBLB to thank them for their submissions and explain my decision in more detail. I will also ask that the HBLB finalise the operational details of the scheme as a matter of urgency.

With the determination concluded, I would like to re-state my disappointment that the relevant parties were not themselves able to come to terms and I would strongly encourage them to develop a less adversarial relationship going forward. I have tried to be fair by listening to the advice of the independent members of

the levy board and I will continue to be guided by their advice in future years until what should be a straightforward commercial negotiation can be taken permanently out of the hands of Ministers.

### DEFENCE

#### Chemical Weapons Convention (Protective Programmes)

**The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey):** The UK's chemical protection programme is designed to protect against the use of chemical weapons. Such a programme is permitted by the chemical weapons convention, with which the United Kingdom is fully compliant. Under the terms of the convention, we are required to provide information annually to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). In accordance with the Government's commitment to openness, I am placing in the Library of the House, a copy of the summary that has been provided to the organisation outlining the UK's chemical protection programme in 2010.

#### Defence Infrastructure Organisation

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** I am announcing today that I intend to set up a new defence infrastructure organisation (DIO) on 1 April this year. We will now launch a consultation process with the MOD trade unions.

The new organisation will bring together some 7,000 staff currently working on construction, maintenance and utilities management and the disposal of land and buildings across the Department.

By making these changes we expect to save about 2,500 posts by 2014 and some £1.2 billion over the first four years alone, without reducing the effectiveness or reliability of the service we deliver. This measure will make a significant contribution to the civilian staff reductions and efficiency measures set out last October in the strategic defence and security review.

This is the first such change emerging from the work of the defence reform unit under Lord Levene designed to overhaul the structure of the Department. It is a significant change, and demonstrates the radical approach to reorganisation and resourcing which we are taking to ensure that we maximise the amount of the defence budget made available for the front line. I hope to announce further such changes in the near future.

### FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

#### General Affairs Council/Foreign Affairs Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington):** The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council will meet in Brussels on 21 February. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council. I will attend the General Affairs Council.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

February and March European Councils

Ministers will discuss follow-up to the February European Council, which covered energy, innovation and Egypt. Following the Council, the Prime Minister reported the

outcomes to the House in his statement on the "EU Council and North Africa". The statement can be found at the following link:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2011/february/statement-on-eu-council-and-north-africa>.

The conclusions of the February European Council meeting can be found at:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/119175.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/119175.pdf).

They will also discuss preparation for the March European Council. The formal agenda has not yet been published. However, we expect discussions at the Council to focus on:

legislative proposals for economic governance in the eurozone;

European Council decision amending article 136 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union and intergovernmental arrangements setting up the European stability mechanism.

These were agreed at the December European Council, see link:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/118578.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/118578.pdf).

#### *Cohesion*

Ministers will review the fifth cohesion report and the ongoing public consultation. The report and details of the public consultation can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion5/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion5/index_en.cfm).

The Government are in the process of forming a response, which will be presented to Parliament in due course.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

#### *EU-UN*

Ministers will be briefed on informal consultations held in New York on 14 February between EU member states and the wider UN membership on the draft EU resolution on the "participation of the EU in the work of the UN".

#### *EU human rights*

Baroness Ashton will brief Ministers on the EU's priorities for the forthcoming session of the UN Human Rights Council. These are likely to include securing Council adoption of strong resolutions expressing concern at the human rights situation in Burma and the DPRK, and resolutions promoting children's rights and freedom of religion.

#### *EU Southern Neighbourhood (Egypt/Tunisia)*

This is an opportunity for Ministers to follow-up the February European Council debate on Egypt and Tunisia and take stock of the recent momentous events. Baroness Ashton is visiting the region this week and will set out her thoughts on the way ahead for the EU. A number of options for EU support to the region are being considered, including election monitoring and a re-evaluation of the European neighbourhood partnership (the EU's main vehicle for promoting reform in the region). We want to see an ambitious package of support to the region, but would also like to see more conditionality attached to this assistance; as the Prime Minister emphasised to Parliament on 8 February when he reported back on the February European Council.

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)*

We expect Baroness Ashton and Commissioner Füle to follow-up the discussion in last July's FAC (which I reported in my written ministerial statement) of a reinforced EU presence in BiH, by providing more information about EU planning in this regard. The Government agree that there should be a reinforced EU presence in BiH, able to deploy deterrents as well as the incentives inherent in the EU accession process. We will therefore support proposals for the development of an "EU toolbox" of positive and negative measures. We believe that in parallel, the civilian executive ("Bonn") powers need to be retained, that the conditionality for eventual closure of the Office of the High Representative continue to apply, and that the executive mandate of the EU military force, EUFOR Operation Althea, should be upheld. We will continue to insist on these points in EU and wider international negotiation.

#### *Sahel*

We expect Ministers to be presented with a draft security and development strategy for the Sahel region, which they requested at the last October's FAC. The murder of two French nationals in Niger in January and the kidnap of an Italian in Algeria this month underscore the severity of the terrorist threat in the region. Baroness Ashton reacted to the first event in the following statement on 19 January:

[http://www.europa.eu-un.org/articles/en/article\\_10584\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu-un.org/articles/en/article_10584_en.htm).

#### *Somalia*

Baroness Ashton is expected to give an oral presentation of the outline of the EEAS's Horn of Africa strategy. The strategy is expected to focus on regional and cross-cutting issues, looking in particular at the main causes of conflict and poverty. There will be a more substantive discussion at the March FAC, where we expect the adoption of formal conclusions.

#### *Freedom of Religion*

Following discussion at the 31 January FAC, we expect conclusions to be adopted on the issue of "Intolerance, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief". We believe these conclusions should send a strong statement of the Council's concern at instances of persecution or discrimination based on religion and its commitment to upholding the right to freedom of religion or belief.

#### *Iran: human rights*

EU member states will discuss the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran, particularly following the unacceptable execution of dual Dutch/Iranian national Baahrami. Baroness Ashton released a statement on behalf of the EU on 27 January:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/118966.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/118966.pdf).

#### *Middle East Peace Process*

Baroness Ashton is likely to provide an update on preparations for the March Quartet meeting and report on her recent visit to the middle east. There is also likely to be a discussion of the implications of wider developments in the region for the MEPP.

The Foreign Secretary will also brief his counterparts on his visit to Tunisia, Jordan, Yemen, UAE and Bahrain. Related press releases can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk).

### Zimbabwe

There is a possibility of a short discussion of Zimbabwe, following the adoption of renewed EU targeted measures. A full written ministerial statement on this will be laid before the House shortly.

### Hungarian Presidency (Priorities)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): I am keen to keep hon. Members fully informed on the European Union. I would therefore like to draw hon. Members' attention to a letter to the Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee and note on the priorities of the Hungarian presidency of the European Union, which have been placed in the Library of the House.

I have deposited a copy of the Hungarian presidency strategic framework, and a calendar of forthcoming events from the presidency.

### Legalisation Office

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): From 1 April 2011 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) legalisation office in Milton Keynes will only accept applications received by post and will process all straightforward applications within 24 hours (excluding postal times). Updated guidance on how to submit applications will be on the legalisation office website from 1 March.

A majority of customers already send their applications by post—they will see the turnaround time halved from 48 to 24 hours. A third of customers come to the office in person—they will now need to submit their applications by post.

Ten per cent. of customers are businesses who currently have their applications processed within 24 hours. Business customers who submit large volumes of documents on a daily basis can pre-register to have access to a drop-off and pick-up facility at Milton Keynes with the same 24 hours turnaround. There will be no charge to customers for this service. There will be no change to the service offered at the legalisation office at Centre Point in central London which serves business customers only.

This change is driven by a desire to ensure that we can provide the most efficient service possible. At present these three different service levels are offered all for the same price. This change moves to a single service level for a single price. Over time the changes may also deliver efficiency savings by removing the costs associated with maintaining a public area.

Legalisation is the official confirmation that the signature, stamp or seal on a UK document is genuine. The legalisation does not certify the authenticity of a document or give Foreign and Commonwealth Office approval of its content. Legalisation is usually required by foreign authorities before they will allow a UK document to be used for official purposes in their country. The legalisation office is the only competent authority in the UK to issue legalisation or apostille certificates in the UK.

### Pope's Visit (Costs)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office (FCO) is today publishing a report of the non-policing costs handled by the FCO on behalf of Her Majesty's Government and the Catholic Church during the Visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to the United Kingdom which took place from 16 to 19 September 2010.

This was an historic visit, as the first ever official visit by a Pope to the UK, and an important milestone in the relationship between the UK and the Holy See. It was on a far bigger scale than a normal state visit: police estimates suggest that 500,000 people saw the Pope either during events or along the Pope mobile routes. Approximately 3,000 media representatives were accredited to cover the visit. The combination of official events, pastoral events, through which the Pope engaged with Britain's Roman Catholics, and meetings with the Church of England and with people of other faiths, made this a visit that was out of the ordinary in every way.

The visit programme included both state and pastoral elements. HM Government agreed with the Catholic Church that costs would be shared accordingly, with all the costs of the pastoral elements of the programme met by the church. HM Government met the costs of events which were entirely part of the state visit programme and contributed to the costs of other events in relation to measures necessary to meet HM Government's responsibility for the safety and security of the public and of the Pope. The Scottish Government also contributed in relation to these measures for the Scottish part of the programme.

### The report consists of:

An exchange of letters and an agreement on division of costs for public events signed by Lord Patten of Barnes and Archbishop Nichols prior to the visit. The second appendix is not attached as it is a draft budget which is superseded by the summary of expenditure attached to this statement (referenced below)

A summary of expenditure made by the FCO on behalf of HM Government and the Catholic Church. To date, all these costs have been met by the FCO. The bishops' conferences of England and Wales and Scotland on behalf of the Catholic Church have undertaken to refund its share of these costs by the end of February.

This report does not include the estimated £3,800,000 for costs paid direct by the Catholic Church. Neither does it cover any expenditure met by local authorities nor staffing costs incurred by other Government Departments.

In addition to the costs outlined in the report the Scottish Government also contributed towards the cost of the Scottish part of the programme.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website ([www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)).

The visit paved the way for further co-operation between the UK and the Holy See on a number of international issues where we share a common goal, including addressing the challenge of climate change, promoting multi-faith dialogue, as a means of working for peace in the world, and fighting poverty and disease. These were among the issues discussed both in bilateral meetings during the visit and at the working dinner with the papal delegation hosted by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

The success of the visit was a testament to the close co-operation and effective joint working by the Catholic Church, HM Government and many other organisations



and individuals throughout the UK. I wish to place on record HM Government's gratitude to all those who worked together to achieve that success.

### Zimbabwe

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** The EU has announced today its decision to roll over the Zimbabwe restrictive and appropriate measures. Following an in-depth assessment the UK and its EU partners have unanimously agreed to the renewal of the measures for a further 12 months, while removing 35 people from the list of those subject to an EU visa ban and asset freeze on the grounds that they are no longer involved in human rights abuses or undermining democracy or the rule of law.

Although this amendment reflects the progress made by the Government of Zimbabwe on economic issues and in delivering public services it also reflects our strong concern that this has not been matched by equivalent political and democratic reform. Essential reforms to promote the rule of law, human rights and democracy, as agreed under the global political agreement, have not yet been implemented. We are particularly concerned at the upsurge in political violence and intimidation in recent weeks. We have, therefore, extended the travel restrictions and asset freeze applicable to the remaining 163 people and 31 economic entities for a further 12 months. The arms' embargo remains in place and EU and UK bilateral development aid will continue to be channelled directly to the people of Zimbabwe through the UN and non-state actors, rather than through the Government of Zimbabwe.

The UK and our EU partners emphasise our willingness to revisit the measures at any time should there be further concrete developments on the ground in Zimbabwe. In this context, we fully support the Southern African Development Community and its member states in their effort to facilitate agreement amongst the parties in Zimbabwe on creating an environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections.

Britain remains a committed friend to the people of Zimbabwe. We gave our largest ever aid package to Zimbabwe last year and the DFID Secretary of State recently signalled that the UK would significantly increase its development effort in Zimbabwe over the next four years if there are free and fair elections and a reforming Government in place.

### HEALTH

#### Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** The issue of whether or not practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine should be statutorily regulated has been debated since the House of Lords' Select Committee on Science and Technology's report in 2000 recommended statutory regulation for the first two of these groups.

We have today published an analysis of the 2009 consultation by the four United Kingdom Health Departments which sought views on the possible regulation of practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine. This factual report has been placed in the Library and can be found on the Department of Health's website at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH\\_124337](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_124337)

Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

I can now set out how we intend to take forward the regulation of herbal medicine practitioners and traditional Chinese medicines practitioners, specifically with regard to the use of unlicensed herbal medicines within their practice. As this matter is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland we have had discussions with Health Departments in the three devolved Administrations which have been constructive and we are committed to a unified UK-wide approach to the regulation of these practitioners.

When the European Directive 2004/24/EC takes full effect in April 2011 it will no longer be legal for herbal practitioners in the UK to source unlicensed manufactured herbal medicines for their patients. This Government wish to ensure that the public can continue to have access to these products.

In order to achieve this, while at the same time complying with EU law, some form of statutory regulation will be necessary and I have therefore decided to ask the Health Professions Council to establish a statutory register for practitioners supplying unlicensed herbal medicines. This will ensure that practitioners meet specified registration standards. Practitioner regulation will be underpinned by a strengthened system for regulating medicinal products. This approach will give practitioners and consumers continuing access to herbal medicines. It will do this by allowing us to use a derogation in the European legislation to set up a UK scheme to permit and regulate the supply, via practitioners, of unlicensed manufactured herbal medicines to meet individual patient needs.

The Health Professions Council is an established and experienced statutory regulatory body which has the necessary experience to be able to successfully establish and maintain a statutory register for practitioners wishing to supply unlicensed herbal medicines. Subject to parliamentary approval, such practitioners who wish to supply unlicensed herbal products will be required by law to register with the HPC.

The four UK Health Departments will consult jointly on the draft legislation once it is prepared. This will give practitioners and the public the opportunity to comment. Subject to parliamentary procedures we will aim to have the legislation in place in 2012.

Until the new arrangements are in place the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) will continue to take appropriate compliance and enforcement action where products are in breach of the regulatory requirements. In line with the MHRA's normal approach, the action taken will be proportionate and will target products which pose a public health risk. Guidance issued by the MHRA makes clear their view that, where practitioners hold stocks of unlicensed products on 30 April 2011 that legally benefited from transitional

arrangements under the European directive, the practitioner can continue to sell those existing supplies to their patients.

The 2009 consultation also looked at practitioners of acupuncture. The practice of acupuncture is not affected by the EU directive and, therefore, compliance is not required. I am confident that acupuncturists have their own voluntary regulatory measures in place which are sufficiently robust. Additionally, local authorities in England have powers to regulate the hygiene of the practice of acupuncture to protect against the risk of transmission of certain infectious diseases. Similar measures are also in place in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

I am pleased to say that this decision resolves a long-standing issue, to the benefit of both practitioners and the public who use herbal medicines.

## JUSTICE

### Health Care Workers, Social Workers and Social Care Workers

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** Safe, respectful and effective care is essential and should be what all users of health and social care services experience.

The vast majority of those who work in health and social care are committed individuals with a strong sense of professionalism who aspire to deliver the highest standards. However, where there is poor practice or behaviour that presents a risk to the public, it is vital that swift action is taken, whether by employers, or by national regulatory bodies.

Ensuring a strong and effective system for regulating health and social care professionals is one of the cornerstones of our strategy for delivering improved outcomes for people who use health and social care services. The current system of professional regulation helps to ensure this by setting high standards of education, training, conduct and ethics and by taking action to remove unsuitable workers in the rare cases when things go wrong. Regulation of health care workers and social workers therefore makes an important contribution to safeguarding the public, including vulnerable children and adults.

However, the regulatory framework is also complex, expensive and requires continuous Government intervention to keep it up to date. More generally, reducing regulation is a key priority for the coalition Government. By freeing society from unnecessary laws, the Government aim to create a better balance of responsibilities between the state, business, civil society and individuals, and to encourage people to take greater personal responsibility for their actions.

While regulation of some professionals is vital to ensure high standards of care, it is only one component of a wider system of safeguards, controls and clinical governance and ultimate responsibility for the provision of high quality services must rest with employers and those contracting with health and social care workers. We believe that the approach to professional regulation

must be proportionate and effective, imposing the least cost and complexity consistent with securing safety and confidence for patients, service users, carers and the wider public.

I have today laid before Parliament a Command Paper, "Enabling Excellence—Autonomy and Accountability for Healthcare Workers, Social Workers and Social Care Workers" (Cm 8008) setting out the Government's proposals for how the system for regulating health care workers across the United Kingdom and social workers in England should be reformed, to sustain and develop the high professional standards of those practitioners and to continue to assure the safety of those using services and the rest of the public.

The reforms, many of which are being progressed through the Health and Social Care Bill, will give greater independence to those who work in health care across the UK and social care in England, to their employers, and to the professional regulatory bodies; balanced by more effective accountability in how they exercise that freedom.

We will seek to drive up standards for some groups of unregulated health and social care workers to improve service users' experience through a system of assured voluntary registration. Employers and commissioners will be able to give preference to workers on voluntary registers to ensure that they contract with suitably skilled and qualified workers. In line with the Government's overall social work reform programme, the proposals will also strengthen social work as a profession in England.

"Enabling Excellence—Autonomy and Accountability for Healthcare Workers, Social Workers and Social Care Workers" is available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Access to Elected Office Consultation

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** Today the Government are publishing a consultation paper, co-produced with Equality 2025<sup>1</sup> and disability organisations, which seeks views on the additional support which can be offered to disabled people who wish to become elected representatives.

We want to ensure that our democracy is diverse and that we have a political system which better reflects the people it serves. To this end, the coalition programme contained an important commitment to introduce additional support for disabled people "who want to become MPs, councillors or other elected officials". This commitment was borne from the recognition that the 10 million and more disabled people in the UK are under-represented in public life. It also follows the recommendations made by the cross-party Speaker's conference in January 2010 on how to improve the representation of women, disabled people and minority ethnic people in the House of Commons.

In order to produce an effective strategy, we need to establish the practical support needed by disabled candidates to encourage greater participation in public and political life. This consultation is an opportunity for us to seek a

diverse range of views, from disabled people themselves and others, on the measures which would make a real difference.

The consultation paper sets out a range of proposals including the establishment of a fund to support disability-related costs. This will not, however, replace existing obligations for parties under the Equality Act 2010/ Disability Discrimination Act 1995. In addition to helping break down financial barriers, the proposals are intended to address some of the wider obstacles faced by disabled people who seek elected office, for example introducing measures to raise awareness and tackle attitudes which might discourage disabled people from putting themselves forward for election.

The proposals will apply to: English local elections, Greater London authority (GLA) elections, English mayoral elections, police and crime commissioners and all candidates from all parts of the UK who are seeking elected positions at UK Westminster elections. We would continue to work with colleagues in the devolved legislatures to help best practice from this strategy to be embedded in the electoral practices for their elections.

The consultation will run for a period of 12 weeks, until 11 May. A consultation document and instructions for responding can be found on the Government Equalities Office website at [www.equalities.gov.uk](http://www.equalities.gov.uk) and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

A summary of the results of this consultation will be published on the Government Equalities Office website within three months of the end of the consultation period.

<sup>1</sup>Government's advisory body on disability issues

## JUSTICE

### Information Commissioner

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly):** My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, Lord McNally, has made the following written ministerial statement:

"On 7 January 2011, the Government announced their intention to enhance the independence of the Information Commissioner as part of a wider package of measures to extend the Freedom of Information Act. Additionally, I wish to announce to the House today that the Government will strengthen the role of Parliament in the appointment of the next Commissioner in 2014. For this appointment, the Government will offer the Justice Select Committee a pre-appointment hearing with the preferred candidate and will accept the Committee's conclusion on whether or not the candidate should be appointed. This will make the appointment process more open and transparent and enhance the independence of the office.

The Information Commissioner plays a vital role in promoting transparency and protecting the rights of individuals in relation to their personal data. The Government are fully committed to an independent Commissioner and the critical role he plays as a champion and protector of information rights.

The Commissioner is already entirely independent in the decisions he takes to enforce the legislation he regulates. However, the provisions to be included in the (Protection of Freedoms) Bill will further enhance his day-to-day corporate and administrative independence. The Commissioner will no longer need to seek the consent of the Justice Secretary on issues relating to staff appointments, charging for certain services, or before issuing certain statutory

codes of practice under the Data Protection Act. Changes will also be made to the terms of the Commissioner's appointment and tenure to increase transparency and protect against any potential undue influence.

Taken together, these steps—to be underpinned by a revised framework document outlining the day-to-day relationship between Government and the Information Commissioner—will result in a real and tangible enhancement to his independence".

## TRANSPORT

### Crossrail (Woolwich Station)

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond):** I am pleased to inform the House today of a positive conclusion to discussions with Berkeley Homes on the funding of Woolwich station box.

In 2007, an initial agreement was reached between Crossrail Ltd, the Department for Transport, Transport for London and Berkeley Homes. This agreement stated that Berkeley Homes would build the basic box structure of a station at Woolwich and subsequently construct their own extensive mixed-use development above it. This would be done at Berkeley Homes' cost and risk, to the specification laid down by Crossrail Ltd, in a way that ensured that the Woolwich station box did not add to the current cost of Crossrail. This agreement was outlined to Parliament by the then Secretary of State for Transport in March 2007.

The Department for Transport, Crossrail Limited, Transport for London, and Berkeley Homes, have in recent months been working urgently to turn this initial agreement into a final, legally binding, agreement.

I am therefore pleased to inform the House today that a final agreement has now been reached by all parties. This means that engineering work on Woolwich station box can now proceed and the benefit of Crossrail investment can be secured for the residents of Woolwich.

In due course, fit-out of the Woolwich station box would be required to bring it to operational status. The Government are clear that, in line with the 2007 agreement, no additional public sector contribution can be made available to fund the fit-out of the station box. Instead, the fit-out is conditional on receiving sufficient funding contributions from developers and businesses operating in the area. Berkeley Homes has an obligation to enter into discussions with Department for Transport, Transport for London, Crossrail Ltd and Greenwich council, in order to provide for the subsequent fitting-out of the station box. All parties, including Berkeley Homes, have made clear that they understand and support this position.

I shall update the House as and when progress is made in relation to the private sector funding of the station fit-out.

### Informal EU Transport Council

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers):** I attended the Informal Meeting of EU Transport Ministers, organised by the Hungarian presidency in Budapest and Gödöllo on 7 and 8 February. The theme was: "TEN-T revision: towards a long-term, well-balanced European transport network".



In the plenary debates, I put forward the UK view that the future TEN-T budget should take account of the aftermath of the financial crisis and the need to put recovery on a strong footing. EU funding will be limited and should be focused on projects that deliver real benefits to the network. Cost benefit analysis should inform funding decisions. Member states should aim to do more with less, concentrating on projects that deliver the best value for money. We think that the current model should be followed, focusing funding on the core network, with some funding also available for the comprehensive network.

In the debate on the role of PPPs, I pointed out that PPP is only appropriate in selected circumstances, implementation can present challenges and requires a high level of commercial skills, and particular attention needs to be paid to the long-term budgetary consequences of its use. I cited the M6 toll road and River Severn crossings as good examples of private investment enabling major pieces of infrastructure to be constructed and the cost returned through tolling. I said that the UK Government are open to tolling as an option for brand new alignments, with potential private sector investment, but noted that we have ruled out the introduction of a national road-user charging scheme (except in relation to heavy goods vehicles).

In the margins of the event I was pleased to be able to have a meeting with the vice president of the European Commission responsible for transport, Mr Siim Kallas, to discuss a range of current issues.

During my discussion of airport security scanners with Mr Kallas, I welcomed the Commission's general approach to the deployment of scanners. We now need to move quickly to amend existing European legislation to give airports the flexibility to deploy scanners effectively and efficiently. The decision on whether to deploy security scanners should be for member states. We acknowledge health, data protection and privacy concerns and believe that these can be addressed through existing European and national laws.

I also discussed the transport aspects of transposition of the air quality directive with Mr Kallas. I pointed out that, although we are fully committed to improving air quality, and we recognise the part that transport has to play, we are keen to ensure that the air quality targets are properly targeted at improvements in health, and are consistent with our ambitious goals to reduce carbon and to create growth.

#### **Basic Carbon Tool (Local Authorities)**

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker):** To complement the local transport White Paper "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon", my Department has been working on a basic carbon tool for local authorities to assist them in demonstrating the carbon benefits of transport interventions in their areas.

Today, I am pleased to announce the publication of the draft basic carbon tool for local authorities on my Department's website<sup>1</sup>.

The tool fully supports local authorities in making their own decisions about the carbon benefits of small-scale interventions and enables them to input their own assumptions and data from best estimates of take-up and effects for their areas. The tool also brings together in one place central research on local transport and carbon, improves access to national transport data which can impact on emissions and simplifies carbon appraisal guidance.

The tool can assist authorities in demonstrating the carbon benefits of bids to the local sustainable transport fund, but it is for local authorities to decide what tools and evidence best meet the criteria and objectives of the fund in the context of their overall bids.

My Department plans to publish the final tool in the summer.

My officials have sent a letter to all local authority chief executives inviting views on the tool. A copy of this letter has been placed in the House Library.

<sup>1</sup>The web address is: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/policy/carbon-tool/xsl1/tool.xls>

## Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 17 February 2011

### TREASURY

#### Financial Regulation

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban):** The Government have today presented to Parliament a consultation document, "A new approach to financial regulation: building a stronger system" (Cm 8012), which provides further detail on the coalition Government's proposals to reform the framework of financial regulation in the UK following the complete failure of the tripartite system over many years to identify or tackle the build up of risk in the financial system. That failure precipitated the biggest financial crisis for a generation, leading to a run on a major high-street bank and the part-nationalisation of two of the largest banks in the world. We need a wholly new approach. The reforms detailed today will address the fundamental weakness of the regulatory system, created in 1997. This document is available on the Treasury website.

This document expands and further consults on the Government's proposals, set out last year, to disband the Financial Services Authority and establish a new system of more specialised and focused financial services regulators. The Government's reforms focus on three key institutional changes: the creation of an independent Financial Policy Committee (FPC) in the Bank of England, the establishment of a new Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) as a subsidiary of the bank, and the creation of an independent conduct of business regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), which was formerly provisionally titled the consumer protection and markets authority. This corrects the failures of the past by creating regulators with clear objectives and the powers needed to deliver them.

"A new approach to financial regulation: building a stronger system" outlines the Government's thinking on a range of issues, including: the objectives of the new regulatory bodies and the factors which they must consider in fulfilling their objectives; the levers and likely tools the FPC will have at its disposal to protect financial stability; the PRA's judgment-led approach in regulating firms; the FCA's more proactive and focused approach to regulating conduct in financial services and markets; accountability measures for the new regulatory bodies; and co-ordination mechanisms which will determine how the regulatory authorities will work together, and with regulated firms. Our reforms will create a stronger regulatory structure which reinforces stability in financial markets and helps deliver better outcomes for consumers.

Following the consultation, the Government will present a further White Paper including a draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny in the spring. The Government expect the new regulatory structure to be in place by the end of 2012.

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Council Tax Benefit

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):** The spending review 2010 announced that Government would localise council tax benefit from 2013-14, and reduce its costs by 10%. The Welfare Reform Bill, published today, took the first step in that direction by taking enabling powers to abolish council tax benefit. Further changes will follow to establish the new system from 2013-14.

I can confirm that the Government remain committed to retaining council tax support for the most vulnerable in society and that they will be taking forward plans for councils to develop local rebate schemes. This reform is part of the decentralisation agenda. It will create stronger incentives for councils to get people back into work and so support the positive work incentives that will be introduced through the Government's plans on universal credit.

Full consultation on the system of local council tax rebate schemes will be undertaken in due course, led by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Parliament will have the final say on any new regime in England. The Government will discuss the devolved implications with the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Combined with other incentives—such as the new homes bonus and our proposals for the local retention of business rates—these changes will give councils a greater stake in the economic future of their local area, so supporting the Government's wider agenda to enable stronger, balanced economic growth across the country.

#### Decent Homes Programme

**The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps):** In a difficult spending review the Government were pleased to announce that they will invest over £2.1 billion of capital funding over the next four years to help towards completing the decent homes programme, including £1.595 billion in the council housing sector. Some £0.5 billion will be allocated to continue to fund housing associations that have already taken on the ownership and management of ex-council housing stock. This reflects the Government's commitment to fairness, protecting the most vulnerable people in our society and as far as possible protecting front line services. This funding will help to refurbish over 150,000 council homes, improving the lives of thousands of residents. It will also help ensure that all councils can deliver a sustainable 30-year business plan under self-financing.

I previously announced that the Government wanted to be fairer in their approach to all, by being less rigid about local structures that would be eligible for funding than the last Government. As a result the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) published proposals for managing the funding allocation process in a consultation document. Following this the agency sent out an invitation to bid to all councils and ALMOs.

The HCA received bids from 70 authorities for a total of £2.7 billion. Therefore there has had to be a rigorous assessment process conducted by the HCA, in consultation with the Mayor for London, in order to live within the available budget.

Today, I am announcing jointly with the HCA the funding for 2011-12 and 2012-13 and indicative funding allocations for 2013-14 and 2014-15. Not all bids have been funded. Those that have not been funded are where the level of non-decency is not as great, is less long standing, or could potentially be funded by greater efficiency savings by the authority especially within the greater freedoms and flexibilities of the system of self-financing after April 2012. Some bids will be funded at a reduced level in line with the criteria in the invitation to bid and may be funded on a later time scale than bid for in order to live within the budget. Only those bids where the authority has made a strong case for investment need and already demonstrated significant cost reductions will receive levels of funding close to their bid. Although there will be more to do, today's decent homes funding will go a long way to making all homes decent for their tenants.

A table showing the funding allocated has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Local Enterprise Partnerships

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):** I, together with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, would like to inform the House that, following the submission to form a local enterprise partnership, we have today written to the Mayor of London and to London councils inviting them to put their governance arrangements in place.

Local enterprise partnerships will be important drivers of growth in the future, bringing together local businesses and elected leaders to create the right conditions for growth. They see a real power shift away from central Government and quangos and towards local communities and the local businesses who really understand the barriers to enterprise in their areas. This announcement brings the total number of partnerships so far invited to put their governance arrangements in place to 31—nearly 90% of the country. We will continue to work with other areas with a view to establishing further local enterprise partnerships across England.

### New Homes Bonus

**The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps):** Today, I am announcing the final design of the new homes bonus. The new homes bonus will fulfil the Government's coalition agreement commitment to provide local authorities with real incentives to deliver housing growth.

This is a key part of our ambition, set out in the "Local Growth" White Paper, to create a fairer and more balanced economy through encouraging growth. The role of local areas in this rebalancing of growth is crucial—localities are best placed to understand drivers and barriers to local growth and should lead their own development to release their economic potential. In so doing they should be able to benefit directly from the development they bring forward.

On 12 November I wrote to English MPs and local authority leaders announcing a consultation on implementation of this commitment through the proposals for the new homes bonus. The consultation closed on

24 December. We received some 470 responses from local authorities, representative groups, MPs and individuals. The responses gave widespread support to the principles of the scheme and the broad scheme design. After considering all responses I am announcing the final scheme design and implementation. Copies of the consultation response document and the final scheme design document have been placed in the Library of the House.

The new homes bonus is designed to address the disincentive within the local government finance system for local areas to welcome growth. Until now, increased housing in communities has meant increased strain on public services and reduced amenities. The new homes bonus will remove this disincentive by providing local authorities with the means to mitigate the strain the increased population causes. In addition, in doing so the new homes bonus should help engender a more positive attitude to growth, and create an environment in which new housing is more readily accepted.

The new homes bonus scheme will be a powerful, simple and transparent incentive. Commencing in April 2011, the bonus will match fund the additional council tax potential from increases in effective housing stock, with an additional amount for affordable homes, for the following six years. It will ensure that the economic benefits of housing growth are more visible to the local authorities and communities where growth takes place.

But housing growth is not just about new units. It is also about best use of existing stock. For this reason, we have designed new homes bonus to measure increases in effective stock—the change in total number of homes and change in empty homes. Empty homes contribute to blight, are a local eyesore and can be a source of local opposition to new homes. But they can also play an important role in increasing available housing—data suggest the average number of long-term privately owned empty homes over the past five years is around 300,000. Of these between 100,000 and 130,000 are in areas of strong housing demand.

The balance between market and affordable homes is crucial—therefore the bonus will provide an additional £350 for each affordable home for the following six years. This means that the bonus available for an affordable home will be up to 36% more than for a similar market home.

The new homes bonus will be unring-fenced. This flexible funding will allow the benefits of housing growth to be returned to those communities affected by growth in a way which best meets local need. Local authorities will need to lead the debate with their communities to determine local spending priorities.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has set aside almost £1 billion over the spending review period for the scheme, including some £200 million in 2011-12 or year one. From year two, funding beyond these levels will come from formula grant.

These radical reforms demonstrate our commitment to seeing a major upswing in housing to meet Britain's housing need and seeing more homes that people want in the places that people want them. We also want to see greater housing market stability, where house price rises are more in line with earnings growth. However, we will



not impose this through top-down targets which attempt to dictate where growth happens, but too often produce little but hostility.

They will be complemented by reforms to the community infrastructure levy, which will incentivise growth by providing authorities with a powerful new tool to secure contributions from development to deliver the infrastructure that communities need to make that growth acceptable and sustainable. The local government resource review will consider how business growth can be incentivised. This framework will encourage local authorities and communities to increase their ambitions for housing and economic growth, and to take the lead in managing the way in which villages, towns and cities develop.

The new homes bonus also sits alongside the existing framework for making planning decisions. Responsibility will remain with local authorities to work within this framework to continue to ensure that development is suitable and sustainable by meeting local needs and national planning policy.

Further information on the new homes bonus final scheme design can be found at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus>.

We will continue to provide advice on the scheme via the [Newhomesbonus@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Newhomesbonus@communities.gsi.gov.uk) email account.

## DEFENCE

### Supplementary Estimates

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** The Ministry of Defence "Supplementary Votes A Estimate 2010-11" will be laid before the House on 17 February 2011 as HC 777. This outlines the maximum numbers of personnel to be maintained for each service in the armed forces during financial year 2010-11.

### Supplementary Estimates

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** The Ministry of Defence "Votes A Estimate 2011-12" will be laid before the House on 17 February 2011 as HC 769. This outlines the maximum numbers of personnel to be maintained for each service in the armed forces during financial year 2011-12.

## HEALTH

### Offender Personality Disorder

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow):** I am publishing today a joint Department of Health and Ministry of Justice consultation document on an "Offender personality disorder pathway implementation plan".

This document sets out the Government's plans to reshape services, interventions and treatments for offenders with severe personality disorders. These plans would be implemented within the existing resources devoted to this area across the national health service and National Offender Management Service. The proposals take account of the learning from the dangerous and severe

personality disorder programme, introduced by the previous Administration, and are aimed to improve identification and assessment, increase treatment capacity, provide additional psychological support in prisons, and strengthen oversight for those released from custody.

This consultation is an important opportunity for professional bodies, service providers in health and criminal justice, patients and the public to comment on how best to ensure continuity of care through the development of effective service pathways across custodial settings and in the community, to improve care, protect the public and make the best use possible of the available resources. This consultation sets out the Government's initial thoughts and invites views from interested persons or organisations.

The consultation document has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Sickness Absence

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** I wish to inform the House that, today, the Department for Work and Pensions, together with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will be launching an independent review of sickness absence in Great Britain.

It is estimated that around 300,000 people (approximately 1% of the employed population) move on to sickness-related benefits (incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance) each year. These individuals make up a sizeable proportion of long-term sickness absences and around half of the total flow on to ESA every year. They constitute a significant cost to taxpayers, in addition to the costs incurred by employers covering absences, and the opportunity costs to the economy in missing out on the contribution of these individuals.

In conjunction with the Minister responsible for employment relations, consumer and postal affairs, the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), I have invited Dame Carol Black, the national director for health and work, and David Frost, current director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, to co-chair an independent review of sickness absence to establish how we can mitigate the economic losses, as well providing effective support for those who would benefit from our help. The report will be jointly sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Work and Pensions. The review will explore how the current system could be changed to help more people stay in work, thereby reducing costs. In addition, the review will examine whether the balance of these costs are appropriately shared and make recommendations for reform.

The coalition Government are committed to reducing the burden of regulation of business in line with the objectives of the growth agenda. The sickness absence review will be conducted in this context, as well as informing the work of the existing employment law review. As such, the sickness absence review will complement the Government's ongoing welfare reform agenda.

## Petition

Tuesday 8 February 2011

### OBSERVATIONS

#### HOME DEPARTMENT

##### Immigration (Sivarajah Suganthan)

*The Petition of residents of Bristol West, and others,*

Declares that the Petitioners support Sivarajah Suganthan, a fellow Bristolian who has previously been detained in Campsfield detention centre, awaiting deportation to Sri Lanka.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons asks the Home Secretary to reconsider Sivarajah's case.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Stephen Williams, *Official Report*, 13 January 2011; Vol. 521, c. 511.]

[P000877]

#### *Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:*

The Government take their responsibilities to asylum seekers very seriously and consider each individual application for asylum on its own merits. It is notable that Sivarajah Suganthan has already made the details of his asylum claim status public to the media.

Mr Sivarajah's claim for asylum was fully considered by Government officials and was refused. Later, he lodged an appeal against this decision. An immigration judge agreed with the refusal and dismissed the appeal, endorsing the finding that he does not require refuge in the UK and can safely return to Sri Lanka. Since then, steps have been taken to arrange his removal from the UK.

During the consideration of his case, both the Government and the immigration judge fully considered all factors in Mr Sivarajah's claim, including his length of residence in the UK and his claim to family life here. Accordingly, there would have to be overwhelmingly compelling evidence to warrant reconsideration of this case.

Ultimately, it has been found that Mr Sivarajah has no legal basis to remain in the UK and must return to Sri Lanka. When someone in this situation refuses to leave voluntarily, the Government will seek to enforce their removal.

## Petition

*Thursday 10 February 2011*

### PRESENTED PETITION

*Petition presented to the House on Wednesday 9 February  
but not read on the Floor*

#### **Charge on Single Use Carrier Bags**

*The Petition of supporters of Penrith Action for  
Community Transition (PACT) in Penrith, Cumbria,*

Declares that the Petitioners wish to see a significant reduction in the issuing of plastic carrier bags by retailers through the introduction of a compulsory charge, as in the case of Wales where a charge of 7p per bag is to be in place from spring 2011.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to introduce the compulsory charge on the issuing of single use carrier bags in England, for which it has power under section 77 (and Schedule 6) of the Climate Change Act 2008.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000886]



# Petition

Tuesday 15 February 2011

## OBSERVATIONS

### HEALTH

#### Reform of Health Services (Wycombe)

*The Petition of residents of Wycombe,*

Declares that the petitioners are concerned and unhappy about the continuing loss of control in the hospital services that are in the constituency; and notes that, in recent years, the petitioners have witnessed the closure of Accident and Emergency, the temporary closure of the maternity unit, and the potential loss of urology services at Wycombe Hospital.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to take steps to ensure that the constituents of Wycombe are given the freedom to use the latest health reforms to work towards fair funding, make the hospital subject to greater local control, and that clinical staff have freedom from centralised planning and targets.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[Presented by Steve Baker, *Official Report*, 31 January 2011; Vol. 522, c. 705-706.]

[P000881]

#### *Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:*

Our reforms are about putting patients and the public at the heart of the NHS—and involving people more in decisions about their local services is fundamental to this.

The Health and Social Care Bill, presented to Parliament on 19 January 2011, sets out our proposals for transforming the quality of services by devolving decision-making to local groups of GP practices, supported by and accountable to an independent NHS Commissioning Board. The

amount of time they spend with patients means that GPs understand their communities better than anyone, and are best placed to ensure patients get the care they need.

To further embed public involvement in commissioning, the Bill contains duties for NHS commissioners around the involvement of patients and the public in how services are designed and the promotion of shared decision-making and choice.

We want to make sure that patients and the public have a strong voice both at a local and national level, so we are creating a new consumer champion. Health Watch. Providing national leadership from within the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Health Watch England will have an influential role in feeding local knowledge and concerns about services to CQC. Local Health Watch organisations will build on the work of existing LINKs, but with greater responsibility and enhanced funding.

In addition, we want all NHS trusts to be foundation trusts by 1 April 2014, and we are strengthening foundation trusts' governance to increase transparency and accountability to the governors and membership and the wider public.

The petition calls for greater freedom for clinical staff. Our plans will dramatically increase the freedom that practitioners have, removing unnecessary top-down targets and enabling them to focus on what really matters: improving patient outcomes. We are also liberating providers from unnecessary restrictions that prevent them from innovating and responding to local needs.

We agree that funding for local health services should be fair. The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for the allocation of the majority of NHS resources from 2013-14. The Board will make allocations to GP consortia on the basis that all areas secure equal access to NHS services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability. It will be for the NHS Commissioning Board to decide how to determine the amount to allocate.

The particular issues raised about hospital services in Wycombe are local matters and my Department will therefore bring the petition to the attention of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

## Written Answers to Questions

Monday 7 February 2011

### ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

#### Keep Britain Tidy

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future funding of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. [38053]

**Richard Benyon:** The environmental charity, Keep Britain Tidy, is DEFRA's delivery partner on litter and local environmental quality issues. Details of the

Government's continued grant to Keep Britain Tidy for the spending review period can be found on the DEFRA website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/what/documents/defra-alb-allocations-101220.pdf>

#### Forestry Commission: Land

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of each type of land owned by the Forestry Commission in each parliamentary constituency in Northamptonshire has been (a) sold or (b) leased in each of the last 10 years; and what public access conditions were stipulated in each case. [38561]

**Mr Paice:** The information on land sales is held at county level. The following table shows those areas of land sold by the Forestry Commission in Northamptonshire in the last 10 years, its status, and where access on foot has been dedicated under the provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

|      | Name of woodland sold               | Area (Ha) | Status and access                             |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 2007 | A43 Bypass, Hazelborough Wood       | 4         | No access, part of a road improvement scheme. |
| 2009 | Cuckoo Pen and The Linches, Lilford | 51        | Leasehold open market. No CRoW access.        |
| 2009 | Parke Copse, Wicken Rd              | 18        | Leasehold, open market. No CRoW access.       |
| 2009 | Maidford Wood, Towcester            | 14        | Freehold. Dedicated for access under CRoW.    |
| 2009 | Seawell Wood, Maidford              | 25        | Freehold. Dedicated for access under CRoW.    |
| 2010 | Priesthay Wood, Brackley            | 6         | Freehold. Dedicated for access under CRoW.    |
| 2010 | Wicken                              | 79        | Leasehold offered back to freeholder.         |

#### Pesticides

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on conducting a review under the Chemicals Regulations Directive of data on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on honey bees. [37558]

**Mr Paice:** Neonicotinoid insecticides are authorised through the rigorous EU pesticides approval process. Products are authorised in the UK after a national risk assessment. The independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) concluded that the 2009 Buglife report highlighted a need for data on the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides on overwintering of bees in the risk assessment process. This issue had already been identified by regulators and is being addressed through changes to the EU regulatory data requirements. Government scientists have continued to keep up to date with emerging findings and we are supporting further work in this area.

The Government have regularly considered the available evidence in this area and there is no need for an additional review.

#### Shale Gas

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether (a) guidance and (b) regulations issued by the Environment Agency have been modified to take into account the use of hydraulic fracturing for shale gas and coal bed methane. [37890]

**Richard Benyon:** Based on experience to date in the UK, we do not consider there is a need to modify any formal guidance or regulations, but this will be kept under review.

The Environment Agency is the statutory body responsible for operating the robust regulatory regime that is in place in England and Wales to ensure that any environmental risks from the activities listed are controlled. This regime is backed up by both Government and Environment Agency guidance. The Environment Agency has produced a web page which explains its role in regulating these activities.

#### Water Supply: Housing

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the installation of trickle valves in household water pipes and systems by water companies in England. [38515]

**Richard Benyon:** Trickle valves would have the same health and social risks that underpin the ban on disconnection of household water supplies. We will not allow companies in England to use them.

### PRIME MINISTER

#### BSkyB: News Corporation

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he has discussed Newscorp's proposed acquisition of BSkyB with James Murdoch on or since 21 December 2010; [38788]

(2) whether he has discussed Newscorps' proposed acquisition of BSkyB with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport since 23 December 2010. [38874]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 885W.

#### Sustainable Development

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will appoint a Minister for sustainable development in the Cabinet Office as recommended by the Environmental Audit Committee; and if he will make a statement. [38168]

**The Prime Minister:** The Government will announce details of their approach to sustainable development across Government in the coming weeks.

A formal response to the Environmental Audit Committee's report will be made in due course.

#### JUSTICE

##### Translation Services

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are applied to determine the languages for which translation services are offered in the criminal justice system. [38153]

**Mr Blunt:** Both interpretation services—which relate to the spoken word—and translation services—which relate to the written word—are made available as soon as an apparent need is identified, irrespective of the language involved. Additionally, in relation to criminal proceedings in or having a connection with Wales, interpretation and translation into and from Welsh is provided in accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993.

It is for each justice agency to decide into which languages it translates standard written material such as leaflets and posters.

##### Children in Care: Prosecutions

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted under section 49 of the Children Act 1989 for illegally removing, keeping away, assisting or otherwise encouraging a child to run or stay away from a care placement in the last five years. [38336]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table shows the number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates court under section 49 of the Children Act 1989 in England and Wales for 2005 to 2009 (latest available).

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

*Number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates court under section 49 of the Children Act 1989 in England and Wales, 2005-09<sup>1,2,3</sup>*

| Statute                | Offence description                                                                                                                                                              | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Children Act 1989 s.49 | Taking, keeping, inducing, assisting or inciting a child away from the person having responsibility for care under a care order, emergency protection order or police protection | 25   | 21   | 25   | 41   | 44   |

<sup>1</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>2</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

##### Courts: Damages

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent progress he has made in amending the discount rates that courts apply to the award of damages; [38093]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of progress in amending the discount rates applied by courts in respect of the award of damages; and if he will make a statement. [38331]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Lord Chancellor is in the process of reviewing the discount rate. The review will be completed on as timely a basis as possible and an announcement will be made in due course.

##### Courts: Fines

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average collection rate of court fines was in (a) England and (b) Hendon constituency in each of the last five years. [38058]

**Mr Djanogly:** The payment rate is the official measure of the collection of financial penalties. The payment rate for Hendon constituency cannot be provided as HMCS systems do not have this level of detail. Hendon is part of the London region so the payment rate for that region is set out in the following table, as is the payment rate for England.

|         | England only |                                                    | London region |                                                    | Percentage |
|---------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|
|         | Payment rate | Payment rate excluding value of admin cancellation | Payment rate  | Payment rate excluding value of admin cancellation |            |
| 2005-06 | 82           | 80                                                 | 58            |                                                    | 58         |
| 2006-07 | 91           | 79                                                 | 88            |                                                    | 65         |



|         | England only |                                                    | London region |                                                    | Percentage |
|---------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|
|         | Payment rate | Payment rate excluding value of admin cancellation | Payment rate  | Payment rate excluding value of admin cancellation |            |
| 2007-08 | 94           | 78                                                 | 85            |                                                    | 65         |
| 2008-09 | 84           | 71                                                 | 79            |                                                    | 54         |
| 2009-10 | 85           | 74                                                 | 73            |                                                    | 56         |

### Employment Tribunals Service

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employment tribunals have awarded costs to the respondent because a claim was deemed to be frivolous or vexatious in each region in each of the last five years. [37949]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service is currently collating this information. I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

### European Court of Human Rights

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid in legal aid and other funds from the public purse to support persons taking action in the European Court of Human Rights against (a) the Government and (b) other public bodies in the UK in each of the last five years. [38776]

**Mr Djanogly:** Legal aid in England and Wales is administered by the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The LSC does not fund any cases before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), although it may fund matters before the courts of England and Wales which may eventually conclude in the ECtHR.

Legal aid for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases against the UK are pending judgment at the European Court of Human Rights; [38777]

(2) how much the UK has paid in compensation as a consequence of judgments made against the UK by (a) the European Court of Human Rights; and (b) the European Court of Justice in each of the last 10 years; [38778]

(3) what the cost to the public purse in (a) legal and (b) other costs was of the UK being a party to an action in (i) the European Court of Human Rights and (ii) the European Court of Justice in each of the last 10 years. [38779]

**Mr Djanogly:** It will be necessary to make further inquiries and some of the information may not be available in the form requested without incurring disproportionate costs. I will write to the hon. Member with the information that is available as soon as inquiries have been made.

### Judiciary: Equality

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training is offered to immigration judges on gender and equality issues; and if he will make a statement. [38145]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The content of training for the tribunals judiciary is the responsibility of the senior president of tribunals, not the Government. The Tribunals Service provides resources for the training. All immigration judges receive specific training on diversity and equal treatment issues before sitting, as part of their induction courses. The training focuses on four elements:

Understanding the issues.

The Judicial Studies Board's Equal Treatment Bench Book as a source of information.

Developing judicial skills appropriate to fair treatment and equal treatment issues.

The duty to challenge unacceptable behaviour.

Specific diversity training has been provided to all immigration judges as part of continuation training events and residential refresher training events. Diversity training has now become an integral part of the immigration jurisdictions' training methodology, rather than being treated as an isolated topic.

In response to the 2010 Stonewall report "No Going Back" together with the Supreme Court judgment in *HJ (Iran) (FC) (Appellant) and HT (Cameroon) (FC) (Appellant) v Secretary of State for the Home Department (Respondent)* and one other action, training on lesbian, gay and bisexual people and the asylum system has been incorporated into the training delivered to all immigration judges. This training uses materials which have been prepared with the input of both Stonewall and the United Kingdom Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group.

### Legal Aid: Employment

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the effects of a withdrawal of legal aid for employment law cases on the economy of (a) Merseyside, (b) the north-west and (c) England and Wales. [37997]

**Mr Djanogly:** There is no intention to conduct such an assessment. Impact assessments will be published alongside the Government response to the legal aid consultation later this year, however these are unlikely to contain any detailed geographic analysis of impacts.

### Legal Aid: Homelessness

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 564W, on legal aid: homelessness, whether he plans to make legal aid available to appellants against homelessness application decisions made by local authorities. [38292]

**Mr Djanogly:** As I stated in the answer to which the hon. Member refers, we propose that legal aid would continue to be available for those who are homeless or

threatened with homelessness and are seeking accommodation from the local authority under their statutory obligations. This would include appeals under sections 204 and 204A of the Housing Act 1996.

#### Offenders: Ex-gratia Payments

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies have paid in ex-gratia payments to those convicted of a criminal offence to settle cases prior to litigation in each of the last three years; and how many of those who have been convicted of a criminal offence in each of the last three years have not received such a payment. [38781]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table details the total amount of compensation aid to prisoners over the last three completed financial years as a result of civil claims, by way of out of court settlement. The figures exclude the associated legal costs, private establishments and compensation paid locally through the internal complaints procedures for lost/damaged property.

|         | £         |
|---------|-----------|
| 2007-08 | 1,452,309 |
| 2008-09 | 1,648,045 |
| 2009-10 | 3,257,892 |

Compensation figures paid locally are not collated centrally and to provide these would entail the checking numerous files and would incur disproportionate cost. For purposes of litigation, NOMS does not distinguish between convicted and non convicted prisoners.

Records of claims for compensation where a settlement has not been made, either through the service successfully defending a case at trial, a claim being struck out by a court or withdrawn/abandoned by the claimant, do exist centrally. To collate these details for the last three years would involve disproportionate cost due to the number of such cases and the various categories into which they are broken down.

#### Prisoners' Transfers

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether (a) Ministers and (b) officials of his Department (i) met and (ii) corresponded with officials or representatives of BP on the proposed prisoner transfer agreement with Libya between September 2007 and February 2008. [11640]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs set out in his letter to the US Senate, there were three telephone discussions between BP and the then Justice Secretary (Mr Straw) or his office between October and November 2007. The Ministry of Justice has no record of any correspondence between Ministers or officials and BP during that period on the proposed prisoner transfer agreement. However, there is a record of an e-mail from BP to the then Justice Secretary's office of 2 November 2007 in response to a request for information from the Justice Secretary's office. In addition, the then Justice Secretary (Mr Straw) wrote to Tony Hayward on 11 February 2008 in response to an invitation from Tony Hayward dated 30 January, though this was not about the prisoner transfer agreement.

#### Prisons: Expenditure

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Prison Service spent in London on transporting inmates to hospital in each of the last five years. [38077]

**Mr Blunt:** It is not possible to supply information about Prison Service spending on transporting prisoners to hospitals in London, without it being at a disproportionate cost. This is because the cost of transporting prisoners to hospital is not calculated discretely but forms part of wider costs for hospital escorts and bedwatches which are divided between the relevant prison and the relevant primary care trust. These costs consist of both the actual vehicle cost (a taxi, ambulance or prison vehicle) and staffing costs (staffing levels for escorts to hospital are determined based on the risk posed by the prisoner).

### HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

#### Electronic Equipment

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what consideration the House of Commons Commission has given to (a) reducing the House of Commons output of printed documents and (b) facilitating use of electronic devices in the Chamber and Committees. [38293]

**John Thurso:** The information is as follows:

(a) At its meeting on 13 December 2010, the House of Commons Commission agreed a range of initial savings to be made across the House and PICT in 2011-12 as part of its commitment to reduce the costs of the House Service by at least 17% in real terms by 2014-15. This included recurring annual savings of £1.8 million in the production of printed documents—primarily, the Questions Book, the weekly compendium of early-day motions and some Select Committee written evidence—and will save about 12.5 million printed pages in 2011-12 and thereafter in subsequent years. In some cases, these changes reduce duplication of information which will continue to be printed in another document. The information no longer printed is, and will continue to be, available on the website at:

[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

in most cases before 6 am on the day of publishing. Work is under way, through the procedural data and other programmes, to improve the quality and accessibility of parliamentary material on the web and to shift the emphasis from print to web.

(b) This is a matter for the House itself but the hon. Member may be aware that the Procedure Committee is currently consulting all Members on whether the rules should be updated to reflect technological developments since 2007 and the hon. Member could express his views to that Committee.

#### Housing

**Robert Ffello:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what residential accommodation is provided to Officers of the House in the form of (a) flats and (b) houses; and how many bedrooms there are in each property. [38784]

**John Thurso:** Residential accommodation is provided to Officers of the House as follows:

(a) *Flats:*

2a Canon row—two bedrooms

(b) *Houses:*

2 Parliament street—three bedrooms

3 Parliament street—three bedrooms

4 Canon row—four bedrooms

### Pay

**Robert Ffello:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much funding the House of Commons Commission allocated to salary costs for the senior management team of the House in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many individuals are included in that team. [38783]

**John Thurso:** The Administration's senior management team is the Management Board, which has seven members. Details of the salaries paid to the seven individual members of the Management Board can be found in the Remuneration Report included in the House of Commons: Administration 2009-10 Resource Accounts (HC 365). The total funding of salaries for the board for 2009-10 was £804,000.

### Speaker's Office

**Robert Ffello:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much funding the House of Commons Commission has allocated to the provision of services directly and indirectly to the Speaker's Office. [38786]

**John Thurso:** The budget funding allocated to the Speaker's Office for 2010-11 for direct services, which includes the salary cost of support staff, is £704,000. Indirect expenditure of around £67,000 is forecast to be incurred on providing office accommodation, security and corporate services.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Females: Employment

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the effects of reductions in levels of public expenditure on levels of employment of women. [38170]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was formed in May 2010 to make independent assessments of the public finances and the economy for each Budget and pre-Budget report; this includes an assessment of employment levels. The OBR has forecast that employment will rise in each year over the spending review period, reaching 30 million in 2015. The OBR does not break-down its employment forecasts by gender.

### Pay: Equal Opportunities

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) what plans her Department has to bridge the pay gap between male and female employees in small businesses should employers choose not to engage in voluntary equality reporting; [38544]

(2) what estimate the Government Equalities Office has made of the number of small businesses engaging in voluntary equality reporting. [38545]

**Lynne Featherstone:** On 2 December 2010, Government announced that employers will be asked to help tackle the gender pay gap by publishing equality data about their work force on a voluntary basis. This will increase transparency and help employers identify any equality issues and take appropriate action.

The proposal is aimed at all private and voluntary sector employers, but particularly those with 150 or more employees. As the details of these arrangements are being discussed with partners, we have made no assessment of the number of small businesses likely to engage in reporting.

The Government are also committed to wider measures to address the barriers that women face in the workplace, including women working for small businesses. These include making pay secrecy clauses unenforceable, extending the right to request flexible working to all employees and consulting on a new system of parental leave. We are also taking strong action where there is evidence of discrimination, for example on equal pay.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### National Lottery: Operating Costs

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects the results of the report commissioned by the Minister for Tourism and Heritage the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare (John Penrose) on the international benchmarking of national lottery administration costs to be published; and if he will make a statement. [37787]

**John Penrose:** Officials at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) carried out a comparative study of the administrative costs of some UK-based charities which informed my decision about the level of the administrative cost caps I have set. I have shared this material with the lottery distributors and will be publishing it on the DCMS website shortly.

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consultations he has undertaken with lottery funding distributors on the reduction in his Department's expenditure on their running costs. [37788]

**John Penrose:** None, because the administrative costs of distributing lottery funding are funded from the lottery rather than from departmental expenditure. However, the relevant distributors were consulted both directly and through the lottery forum about our plans to reduce their running costs overall.



**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consultation he has undertaken with community and voluntary groups on the reductions in his Department's expenditure on running costs of lottery funding distributors. [37789]

**John Penrose:** I do not expect any impact on voluntary and community groups from the agreement achieved with the lottery distributors on administrative cost reduction. Since the administrative costs of distributing lottery funds are themselves funded by the lottery, the aim is to provide more money for the good causes which should benefit all categories of grant recipient.

### Sport

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what information his Department holds on trends in participation in each sport funded by his Department in each of the last 10 years; [38465]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of levels of participation in sporting activity (a) in each region, (b) by each ethnic group, (c) by each socio-economic group, (d) by each sex and (e) by each age group; and if he will make a statement; [38502]

(3) what estimate he has made of the 10 sports that experienced the largest (a) increase and (b) reduction in participation over the last 10 years. [38504]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Department makes a regular assessment of participation in sport and active recreation using the Taking Part and Sport England's Active People surveys. The Taking Part survey provides national and regional estimates of sport participation, while Active People provides local level estimates.

The Taking Part survey is a continuous face-to-face survey of adults and children in England. It has been run since 2005 and collects data on many aspects of leisure, culture and sport in England. Findings from the 2009-10 survey were published in August 2010. The report includes detailed analysis of sports participation since 2005, participation by individual sport, region, ethnic group, socio-economic group, sex and age. The full report, along with various other outputs from the Taking Part survey can be found on the DCMS website at:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7386.aspx>

The current Active People survey can be found at the following link:

[http://www.sportengland.org/research/active\\_people\\_survey/active\\_people\\_survey\\_4.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/active_people_survey_4.aspx)

This survey includes participation by individual sport compared with results from the previous two Active People surveys; this provides detail on participation increases and decreases.

Prior to the 2005-06 Active People and Taking Part surveys the Office for National Statistics carried out the General Household Survey questions on sport (in 2002 and 1996).

You may also be interested in the national governing bodies whole sport plans. These explain where investment is going within individual sports:

[http://www.sportengland.org/funding/ngb\\_investment/ngb\\_whole\\_sport\\_plans.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/ngb_investment/ngb_whole_sport_plans.aspx)

### Sport: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his Department's budget was for increasing participation in sport in each of the last 10 years; and what plans he has for such budgets in each of the next five years. [38466]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Department provides grant in aid funding to Sport England, who are responsible for investing this funding, as well as their lottery income, in organisations and projects that will grow and sustain participation in grassroots sport and create opportunities for people to excel at their chosen sport.

Grant in aid allocations that have been made to Sport England in the last 10 years can be found in the following table.

|         | Grant in aid received (£000) |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 38,323                       |
| 2001-02 | 43,162                       |
| 2002-03 | 80,324                       |
| 2003-04 | 44,572                       |
| 2004-05 | 74,456                       |
| 2005-06 | 80,971                       |
| 2006-07 | 102,500                      |
| 2007-08 | 113,296                      |
| 2008-09 | 130,163                      |
| 2009-10 | 134,422                      |

The Department set out in the comprehensive spending review the grant in aid expected to be allocated to Sport England from 2011-12 to 2014-15. These figures and the current estimate for 2010-11 can be found in the following table.

|         | Grant in aid proposed (£000) |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 2010-11 | 124,305                      |
| 2011-12 | 95,391                       |
| 2012-13 | 93,690                       |
| 2013-14 | 87,692                       |
| 2014-15 | 85,896                       |

<sup>1</sup> As at Winter Supplementary Estimate

It is estimated that Sport England's lottery income will rise by over £50 million from 2012-13, as a result of the Government's lottery reforms and the end of transfers to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund.

### Tennis: Expenditure

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided for the development of tennis in each of the last five years; and what criteria his Department uses to assess the value for money derived from such expenditure. [38064]

**Hugh Robertson:** Through Sport England the Department has provided the funding shown in the table to the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) Whole Sport Plan (WSP) to support the development of grassroots tennis over the last five years.

| Total WSP funding |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
|                   | £ million    |
| 2006-07           | 1.22,000,048 |
| 2007-08           | 1.22,159,750 |
| 2008-09           | 1.22,267,750 |
| 2009-10           | 6,717,768    |
| 2010-11           | 6,717,768    |

<sup>1</sup> Figures do not include Community Club Development Programme, Club and Coach funding or any awards made to the LTA through community strands, including the National Sports Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Whole Sport Plan core revenue funding and Whole Sport Plan funding specific for delivery of the UK Coaching Certificate and Coaching.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Whole Sport Plan core revenue funding and Whole Sport Plan PESSYP funding.

In addition the LTA was also paid £122,928 as part of the WSP from 2006-09 for delivery of tennis projects in London following the winding-up of the London Active Partnership. Total funding provided to the LTA by Sport England for the 2005-09 WSP was £21,311,844.

Sport England holds formal reviews with the LTA every six months and maintains regular contact with them throughout that period. Their progress is measured against a set of specific outcomes which can be found in The Whole Sport Plan for the Lawn Tennis Association on the Sport England website:

[http://www.sportengland.org/funding/ngb\\_investment/ngb\\_whole\\_sport\\_plans.aspx?sortBy=alpha&pageNum=2](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/ngb_investment/ngb_whole_sport_plans.aspx?sortBy=alpha&pageNum=2)

#### Tourism: National Quality Assessment Scheme

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the (a) accuracy and (b) impartiality of tourist accommodation reviews on websites in developing his plans for the future of the National Quality Assessment Scheme; [38395]

(2) what criteria will be used to assess the eligibility and suitability of proposed tourism developments for government grant assistance following the implementation of his plans for the National Quality Assessment Scheme; [38396]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the devolved Administrations on his plans for the National Quality Assessment Scheme; [38397]

(4) whether he has had recent discussions with the (a) Secretary of State for Wales, (b) Secretary of State for Scotland and (c) Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on his future plans for the National Quality Assessment Scheme; [38398]

(5) whether he has had discussions with the (a) Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and (b) third sector organisations on the ability of (i) elderly people and (ii) economically disadvantaged groups to access information on tourism accommodation in formulating his plans for the future of the National Quality Assessment Scheme; [38399]

(6) whether he has had discussions with the Trading Standards Institute on redress and evidential issues that may arise in respect of trade descriptions of holiday accommodation following the implementation of his plans for the National Quality Assessment Scheme; [38400]

(7) whether he has assessed the potential effects on international perceptions of the UK as a tourist destination of his future plans for the National Quality Assessment Scheme; [38401]

(8) whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the provisions of the Development of Tourism Act 1969 for the purposes of implementing his plans for the National Quality Assessment Scheme; [38402]

(9) what measures he plans to use for benchmarking against international standards following the implementation of his Department's plans for the National Quality Assessment Scheme. [38405]

**John Penrose:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 819W.

#### SCOTLAND

##### Ballots

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what studies his Department has made of spoilt ballots in Scottish elections related to the use of a new electoral system; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such study. [38156]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office has not produced its own study into spoilt ballot papers at Scottish elections as any such study is the responsibility of the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission normally produces a report after each set of elections and these reports may include information on spoilt ballot papers. Following the May 2007 elections, the Electoral Commission commissioned Ron Gould to carry out an independent external review of those elections. The Gould report, 'Scottish Elections 2007: The independent review of the Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections 3 May 2007', did include an analysis of spoilt ballot at the May 2007 elections. This report is available on the Electoral Commission's website.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what costs his Department has incurred in respect of (a) secure storage, (b) maintenance and (c) staff training associated with Scottish ballot-counting machinery. [38158]

**David Mundell:** The combined Scottish Parliament and local government elections in May 2007 were electronically counted. For those elections the necessary equipment was hired from an outside contractor. There were therefore no storage and maintenance costs. Staff training in the use of the electronic counting machinery was provided either under that contract or by the relevant returning officer, however specific training in the use of the e-counting equipment is not separately identified.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what studies his Department has undertaken of failures in machine reading of ballots in Scottish elections; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such study. [38159]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office has not undertaken its own studies into machine reading of ballots in Scottish elections. The Gould report, 'Scottish Elections 2007: The independent review of the Scottish parliamentary and local government elections 3 May 2007', included

an analysis of the electronic count and counting procedures at the May 2007 elections. This report is available on the Electoral Commission's website.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of each consultancy report commissioned by his Department on the (a) efficacy and (b) reliability of machine ballot-counting in Scotland. [38160]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office has not commissioned any reports into machine ballot counting in Scotland. However, the Gould report, 'Scottish Elections 2007: The independent review of the Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections 3 May 2007', included an analysis of the electronic count and counting procedures at the May 2007 elections. This report is available on the Electoral Commission's website.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what costs his Department has incurred in respect of the provision of information to the electorate on the (a) operation of and (b) voting system for the Scottish Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [38161]

**David Mundell:** The provision of information to voters on the voting system for the Scottish Parliament is the responsibility of the Electoral Commission and Returning Officers.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Bill of Rights

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will initiate a formal process to take forward consideration of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. [38269]

**Mr Swire:** The Government believe that it is important to develop support across the community for a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. The process envisaged in the Good Friday agreement to determine the scope for a Bill was taken forward by the previous Government and led to a public consultation. It was clear from this process that there is not as yet agreement on a way forward. The Government will continue to explore next steps.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Terrorism: Sentencing

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Attorney-General on how many occasions he has appealed on the grounds of leniency against a sentence handed out to an individual convicted for offences relating to terrorism since 1 January 2001. [38120]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Law Officers are able to refer cases they believe to be unduly lenient to the Court of Appeal for consideration. Statistics are published annually on the AGO website:

<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk/ULS/Pages/default.aspx>

The data show the offence rather than the circumstances of the offence. They show that the sentences of four offenders convicted of offences contrary to the Terrorism Acts have been referred to the Court of Appeal since 2001.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department allocated work on Afghanistan were based in (a) the UK, (b) Kabul and (c) Helmand province in the latest period for which figures are available. [38563]

**Alistair Burt [holding answer 4 February 2011]:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South (Bridget Phillipson) on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 155W. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold figures on the number of staff in London allocated work on Afghanistan. The FCO records staff activity according to the overall FCO foreign policy priority staff are working towards, as listed, rather than according to geographical priority:

Safeguard Britain's national security by countering terrorism and weapons proliferation, and working to reduce conflict.

Build Britain's prosperity by increasing exports and investment, opening markets, ensuring access to resources, and promoting sustainable global growth.

Support British nationals around the world through modern and efficient consular services.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received from the Co-ordination Forum for Countering anti-Semitism on the level of anti-Semitism worldwide; and if he will make a statement. [38035]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have received no direct reports from the Co-ordination Forum for Countering anti-Semitism. The Community Security Trust (CST), a British charity focused on protecting the Jewish community, contributes to the forum and published their nationwide 2010 Anti-Semitic Incidents Report on 3 February 2011 which will be circulated to the Government and the Police.

The UK is committed to fighting racial discrimination and intolerance. Combating all forms of racism remains an important part of the Government's human rights policy. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries and routinely raise our concerns with host Governments. Where possible our embassies take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws.

We have also recently published the Government's first progress update report on our work to take forward the recommendations of the 2006 All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism.



### BBC External Services

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what impact assessment he has undertaken of his proposed changes to funding for the BBC World Service. [37952]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 13-14WS, which sets out some of the impact of the changes to the BBC World Service budget. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, gave his authority for the closure of five language services, following discussion with the World Service.

The BBC World Service have managerial and editorial responsibility and they have decided to make further changes. These decisions are under their control.

### Burma: Politics and Government

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will work with his international counterparts to inform the Government of Burma of concerns about the Burmese Parliament's rules on freedom of speech and scrutiny. [38946]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Government are deeply concerned by reported restrictions on freedom of speech and scrutiny in Burma's Parliament. It has been reported:

(i) that the Speaker of the Lower House can reject parliamentary questions that he judges will affect international relations, or which undermine the interests of the state;

(ii) that it is a criminal offence, punishable by at least two years in prison, to publish or disclose information relating to parliamentary business.

Our ambassador to Rangoon raised the issue directly with the Burmese Minister for Agriculture on 26 January 2011.

We have raised our concerns over the restrictive and undemocratic nature of the regime's political process with our international partners, including in recent weeks with China, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. We will again underline our concerns at the forthcoming session of the Human Rights Council in March.

### China: Human Rights

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take following the UK-China human rights dialogue on the issue of human rights in China and Tibet. [38192]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We will take a number of steps to follow up the 13-14 January 2011 UK-China human rights dialogue. We will work to develop the links built between UK and Chinese policymakers and experts at the dialogue. We will proactively explore opportunities for follow-up work on the dialogue's two themes, "the role of police in criminal trials" and "minority languages in education". And we will continue to press China to make progress on specific human rights issues, including the situation in Tibet.

The human rights dialogue is just one strand of our continuing engagement with China on human rights. Our project work on human rights in China received £1.5 million of funding in the period 2008-11. This has covered a range of issues, including criminal justice reform and the death penalty. The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs have all raised human rights in their meetings with Chinese Ministers since assuming office, and we will continue to take forward dialogue at this level.

### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36185]

**Alistair Burt:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) policy is to avoid single tender contracts wherever possible and to tender competitively. However in some overseas locations we may be limited to one supplier with the specialist knowledge and expertise to carry out the works required or provide goods and/or services. This may include security related activities in conflict zones or urgently required provisions at posts. Details of all single tender contracts across the FCO network could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In the period requested, the FCO has not awarded any single tender contracts which exceed the prevailing EU public procurement thresholds.

### Departmental Travel

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel since May 2010. [36092]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer the hon. Member to my response to the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin) of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 968W.

As set out in the ministerial code, Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the third quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

### Egypt: Travel Information

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the British embassy in Egypt is taking to ensure the most accurate travel advice is given; and what steps the embassy is taking to overcome recent communication difficulties. [38944]

**Alistair Burt:** Our primary concern during recent political unrest in Egypt has been the safety of British nationals. We have kept travel advice under constant review and have made factual updates at least daily. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London is in close contact with colleagues at the embassy who have

been monitoring the situation in Cairo and receiving regular updates from contacts elsewhere in Egypt, including Alexandria, Suez, Luxor and Sharm el Sheikh.

Our embassy used a number of means of communication, including satellite telephones, radios and landlines in order to stay in touch with staff, honorary consuls, wardens and other contacts such as tour operators and British companies, where others have not been available.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's internal telecommunications network (FTN) has not been affected by Egyptian Government restrictions on the internet and mobile phones.

#### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the effectiveness of international sanctions programme against Iran; and if he will make a statement. [38043]

**Alistair Burt:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have had discussions on the international sanctions programme against Iran with many of our counterparts. It is clear that sanctions are having an impact. Iran is finding it increasingly difficult to acquire access to goods of proliferation concern and is also finding it hard to access international finance, restricting its ability to fund its nuclear programme. We believe these sanctions and other pressures brought Iran back into talks with the EU 3+3 but its disappointing failure to engage on the substance of international concerns mean that pressure will now need to increase.

#### Kashmir

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 227W, on Kashmir, what assessment he has made of the effect of the Indian military presence in Kashmir on the human rights situation in the region. [37307]

**Alistair Burt:** We are aware of human right abuses on both sides of the line of control including allegations that Indian security forces have used excessive force against violent protestors during the unrest last summer. Prime Minister Singh issued a statement that violations of human rights abuses by security forces in Kashmir would not be tolerated. We have been closely following the initiative of the Indian Government to appoint three interlocutors to help resolve the situation in Indian administered Kashmir. They have made a number of recommendations to the Government including the release of prisoners held without charge, allowing peaceful protest and exercising proper crowd control.

Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss the situation in Kashmir with the Indian and Pakistani Governments and with our contacts in Indian and Pakistani-administered Kashmir. During these discussions, we call for an end to external support for violence in Kashmir and an improvement in the human rights on both sides of the line of control. We also continue to encourage a lasting solution that

takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. But the UK cannot prescribe a solution nor mediate in finding one.

#### Lebanon: Arms Trade

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the transport of weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Iran on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [38116]

**Alistair Burt:** We remain concerned by reports of weapons transfers to Hezbollah, including Hezbollah's own claims that it possesses significant military capabilities.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary during his recent visit to Syria made clear and firm representations to President Assad and Foreign Minister Muallem on the dangers to the stability of the region in allowing the smuggling of weapons to Hezbollah. Our officials continue to raise UN Security Council resolution 1701 and the smuggling of weapons to Hezbollah at the highest level during our regular dialogue with Syrian counterparts.

We remain concerned that Iran is undermining regional peace and stability, including through weapons transfers. We continue to call on Iran to play a constructive role in the region, including through restoring international confidence in its nuclear programme. We continue to make our views clear through interventions at the UN on UN Security Council resolutions 1701 and 1559.

#### Lebanon: Politics and Government

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Lebanon since December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [R] [38115]

**Alistair Burt:** Following the withdrawal of the Opposition from the Government of National Unity on 12 January, President Sleiman has appointed Najib Mikati as Prime Minister and asked him to form the next Government.

We want to see a Government formed in accordance with Lebanon's constitution, which commands the broadest possible support of the people of Lebanon and upholds its international obligations including the Special Tribunal and an end to impunity for assassinations. It is important that any new government is committed to restraint and the principle of non-violence as well as a sovereign and independent future for Lebanon.

#### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what his most recent assessment is of progress in the Middle East Peace Process; what recent discussions (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) officials in his Department have had with (i) the US State Department, (ii) the US Secretary of State, (iii) the government of Israel, (iv) the Palestinian Authority and (v) EU counterparts on the Middle East Peace Process; and if he will make a statement; [R] [38047]

(2) what assessment he has made of the political situation in the West Bank since December 2010; and if he will make a statement; [R] [38048]

(3) what assessment he has made of the political situation in the Palestinian Territories since December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [R] [38114]

**Alistair Burt:** The Middle East Peace Process remains among the Government's highest foreign policy priorities. I have recently returned from a visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. I underlined our views to both Israeli and Palestinian Ministers and saw for myself the impact of the occupation.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in the House on 1 February 2011, negotiations are the only way to achieve the national aspirations of both the Palestinians and the Israelis. We are deeply concerned about the breakdown in talks, and are working closely with the United States and the European Union to see a return to direct negotiations.

We hope that the Quartet meeting on 5 February 2011 was clear that negotiations must resume quickly. The entire international community, including the United States, should support 1967 borders as being the basis for resumed negotiations. The result should be two states, with Jerusalem as the future capital of both, and a fair settlement for refugees.

We are in regular contact with the key players at ministerial and official level. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman on 24 January 2011 and spoke with Baroness Ashton on 29 January 2011 and US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton on 30 January 2011 about the Middle East Peace Process.

#### Occupied Territories: Housing

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of (a) new Israeli settler homes built in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and (b) Palestinian homes demolished in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [37190]

**Alistair Burt:** Figures for settlement construction during 2010 are not yet available. However 1,175 constructions were completed in the first three quarters of 2010. It is not yet clear at this point what number were houses and what were other buildings.

As my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, Alistair Burt, said on 17 January 2011 following reports that Israel is considering building 1,400 new apartments in East Jerusalem:

"We have always been clear that settlements are illegal and an obstacle to peace. Pushing ahead with this plan would be a deeply unhelpful move and hinder efforts to resume talks between the two parties leading to a two-state solution to this conflict, with Jerusalem as the shared capital of the two states living side by side in peace and security."

Regarding demolitions, we are concerned at what appears to be a sharp increase in the level of demolitions and evictions in East Jerusalem and Area C (Palestinian territory under Israeli military and civilian control). According to UN statistics, 431 structures, including

137 homes, were demolished in 2010, affecting 594 people, including 299 children. These figures represent a 60% increase in demolitions compared to 2009.

#### Palestinians: International Assistance

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 830-31W, on Palestinians: international assistance, to what non-governmental organisations in Israel other than in the west bank or Gaza his Department has provided funds in each year since 2003; and for what purposes such payments were made. [36577]

**Alistair Burt:** Between 2003-04 and 2009-10 financial years, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided nearly £3.8 million to non-governmental organisations in Israel (other than in the west bank or Gaza). Final funding for the current financial year cannot be confirmed.

Our funding supports our strategic policy priorities to:

- (a) help manage or mitigate conflicts;
- (b) monitor and promote human rights, access to justice and social welfare; and
- (c) strengthen the bi-lateral relationship.

The following non-governmental organisations have received funding from the Middle East and North Africa Conflict Pool or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

Abraham Fund;  
The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI);  
Bimkom;  
Birax;  
Breaking the Silence;  
B'Tselem;  
Council for Peace and Security (CPS);  
Economic Co-operation Foundation (ECF);  
Gisha;  
Friends of the Earth Middle East (FOEME);  
HaMoked;  
Hand in Hand;  
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);  
International Palestinian Centre for Research and Information (IPCRI);  
Ir Amim;  
Itach-Makki;  
Local Government Association (LGA-UK Organisation);  
Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED);  
No Legal Frontiers;  
Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI);  
Peace Now;  
Women for Human Rights;  
Yesh Din.

#### Palestinians: Politics and Government

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received on the economic situation in Gaza since December 2010; and if he will make a statement; [38038]



(2) what assessment he has made of the level of arms smuggling into Gaza since December 2010; what discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [38039]

(3) what assessment he has made of the political situation in Gaza since December 2010; and if he will make a statement; [38040]

(4) what assessment he has made of the level of presence of al-Qaeda in the Gaza Strip since December 2010; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on this topic; and if he will make a statement. [38041]

**Alistair Burt:** Although we no longer assess that there is a humanitarian crisis in Gaza we have long been clear that the status quo is a tragedy, unsustainable and counterproductive. It hurts the people of Gaza, holds their future hostage, and undermines work to drive reconstruction, development and economic empowerment. At the same time the blockade empowers Hamas through the tunnel economy and damages Israel's long-term security through its corrosive impact on a generation of young Palestinians.

While we welcomed an increase in the quantity and variety of goods entering Gaza more needs to be done to speed up the approvals process for dual-use items so that UN reconstruction projects can get underway. Israel's announcement on exports was also welcome. It is now important that we see real progress on the ground. We will be working with Israel to help it achieve its stated aim of reaching pre-2007 levels of exports this year.

We are aware of reports that Hamas continues to acquire and test a variety of weapons. We have long made it clear that the arming and funding of Hamas, and other Palestinian Rejectionist Groups, is unacceptable. We have received no credible reports that al-Qaeda is operating in Gaza, though clearly there are other extremist groups present in Gaza in addition to Hamas, including those involved in rocket attacks against Israel. We have underlined the need for all groups, including Hamas, to end rocket attacks on Israel.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised these issues with Prime Minister Netanyahu when he visited Israel in November. I discussed Gaza at length with the Israeli Co-ordinator for Government Activity in the Territories (COGAT), General Dangot, when he visited the region on 16-19 January 2011.

#### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Somalia on the need for further steps to safeguard safety of international travellers. [38945]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against all travel to Somalia due to the ongoing violence, dangerous levels of criminal activity and general internal insecurity. The Government are working with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and regional administrations to return stability and peace to the country and to tackle external threats to international travellers. An effective security sector is vital to achieve this and should be embedded in the wider political strategy.

#### Tunisia: Politics and Government

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has offered assistance to Tunisia as a result of the political situation in that country. [37326]

**Alistair Burt:** The main focus of our response has been in Brussels. We have agreed an EU Options Paper on assistance for Tunisia which offers an increase in financial support; technical support to Tunisia's planned electoral process; trade concessions for agricultural products; and the freezing of assets misappropriated by members of the former regime. In parallel with this, the UK has given its political support to the measures announced by the new interim Government to liberalise the country's political system.

I met the Tunisian ambassador on 2 February 2011 and personally assured him of the UK's willingness to support and assist in Tunisia's move towards democracy including through capacity building and parliamentary contact.

#### Western European Union

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisation will guarantee the pensions of former employees of Western European Union (WEU) after the closure of WEU in 2011. [38775]

**Mr Lidington:** The Western European Union (WEU) Council, of which the UK is a member, is responsible for ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place for the transfer of the administration of its residual responsibilities—including payment of pensions to former WEU staff—following closure of the WEU later this year.

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the open market value of the Western European Union premises on Avenue President Wilson in Paris; what share of the value will accrue to the UK when the premises are sold; and when he expects the sale to be completed. [38834]

**Mr Lidington:** A number of independent valuations are being sought for the market value of the Western European Union (WEU) premises in Paris. The UK share of the value of the premises is approximately 14%. The premises have to be sold back to the French Government, which already owns one-fifth of the premises outright, with the remainder shared among all 10 WEU Council members based on the level of their contribution to the WEU (which reflects gross national income). There is no firm date for the sale to be completed, but we hope it could be done within a year from now.

#### DEFENCE

##### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning his Department has completed in relation to the composition of British forces in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of combat troops; and if he will make a statement. [38844]

**Nick Harvey:** As the Prime Minister has previously stated, we will not have troops in a combat role after 2015 or in the numbers they are currently, although we expect to have troops in training roles beyond that date as part of a broader bilateral relationship.

The Ministry of Defence is necessarily focused on how best we can achieve the transfer of security to the Afghan National Security Forces by the end of 2014. As part of this work we are considering the scope and shape of the UK's enduring relationship with Afghanistan and what the likely role and composition of forces should be beyond 2015. This advice will be presented to the National Security Council in due course.

#### Air Force: Military Bases

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 20W on air force: military bases, what the outcome was of the 2010 planning round before it was re-costed. [37531]

**Nick Harvey:** It is not the Ministry of Defence's practice to publish detailed forward plans, including those in relation to the estate, as to do so would prejudice commercial interests.

|          | FY 2006-07 | FY 2007-08 | FY 2008-09 | FY 2009-10 | Percentage<br>FY 2010-11 |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Total    | 33.3       | 29.0       | 21.4       | 21.8       | 18.2                     |
| Age      |            |            |            |            |                          |
| Under 18 | 43.7       | 49.5       | 43.2       | 33.2       | 26.9                     |
| 18-19    | 42.1       | 37.9       | 24.0       | 25.9       | 23.8                     |
| 20-24    | 26.3       | 21.6       | 16.0       | 18.4       | 15.3                     |
| 25-29    | 21.1       | 14.8       | 10.8       | 16.1       | 13.2                     |
| 30-34    | 14.3       | 13.0       | 12.9       | 12.5       | 13.9                     |
| 35+      | 19.6       | 7.4        | 7.2        | 11.1       | 8.1                      |

Due to ongoing validation of data, statistics from financial year 2007-08 onwards are provisional and subject to review. Outflow rates for the current financial year are projected figures based on actual outflow for the financial year to date.

#### Armed Forces: Young People

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legal advice he has received on the disparity in minimum service periods for a recruit who enlists at the age of 16 compared with a recruit who enlists at age 18 or above. [37946]

**Mr Robathan:** Legal advice was provided by Ministry of Defence lawyers regarding the different arrangements that apply to those who enlist before the age of 18 compared to those aged 18 or above.

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legal advice he has received on the retention of an armed forces recruit who no longer wishes to be bound by the enlistment contract he or she entered into while a minor. [37947]

#### Armed Forces: Education

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pupils received the continuity education allowance for each year of study in the latest period for which figures are available. [38602]

**Mr Robathan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West (Mike Crockart) on 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W.

#### Armed Forces: Recruitment

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of armed forces recruits in each age group withdrew from training before the end of phase two in each of the last five years. [37938]

**Mr Robathan:** The following table shows the UK regular forces, tri-service rates of outflow from the untrained strength for the past five financial years (FY):

**Mr Robathan:** In developing the provisions as to a person's enlistment and terms of service, the policy teams worked closely with the Ministry of Defence's in-house legal team and received ongoing advice.

A recruit who was under 18 years of age at the time of enlistment and who wishes to end their service may give at least 14 days' notice to their commanding officer. Such notice can take effect when the recruit has completed 28 days' service and is within six months of enlistment. Additionally, after this time, but before the recruit has attained the age of 18 and three months, a recruit who has made their unhappiness known would not be stopped from leaving the service should they wish to do so. After the age of 18 years and three months, the usual procedures for leaving the relevant service would apply.

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legal advice he has received on the retention of an armed forces recruit aged under 18 if his or her parent withdraws consent after attestation. [37948]

**Mr Robathan:** In developing the provisions as to a person's enlistment and terms of service, the policy teams worked closely with the Ministry of Defence's in-house legal team and received ongoing advice.

Provision was made in the Armed Forces (Enlistment) Regulations 2009 for the situation when an appropriate person, such as a parent, did not give or withdrew consent to the enlistment of a person under the age of 18. Such a parent may apply within three months of the enlistment to the Defence Council for a determination that the enlistment is invalid, even if the enlisted person has since attained the age of 18. However, if all necessary consents were obtained prior to the enlistment of a person under the age of 18, and that consent is subsequently withdrawn after the valid enlistment of the person, the enlistment will remain valid.

However, it still remains the case that before any recruit has attained the age of 18 years and three months, they would not be stopped from leaving the service if they were to make their unhappiness known.

#### Departmental Pay

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid in bonuses to civil servants in 2009-10; how many bonuses were paid; what the aggregate monetary value of those bonuses was; and what the highest bonus paid was. [37331]

**Mr Robathan:** Officials in the Ministry of Defence are currently collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member.

#### Fleet Air Arm

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the remaining (a) establishment and (b) structure of the Fleet Air Arm is in terms of (i) manpower and (ii) aircraft. [38839]

**Nick Harvey:** After implementing the decisions taken in the strategic defence and security review, the Fleet Air Arm will operate the following helicopters:

- 30 anti-submarine Warfare Merlins;
- 28 Maritime Wildcats;
- 25 Commando Merlins; and
- six Battlefield Wildcats.

In addition, some second line aircraft will be used for training purposes. It will employ 1,179 officers and 3,186 ratings.

The Fleet Air Arm remains the Ministry of Defence's Maritime Aircraft Operating Authority and is a joint partner in the Joint Combat Aircraft programme.

#### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to revise the Rotary Wing Strategy in the light of the conclusions of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [38845]

**Nick Harvey:** Yes. The Rotary Wing Strategy is being revised following the Strategic Defence and Security Review, as part of the Ministry of Defence's annual planning round.

#### RAF Menwith Hill

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the legal status is of his Department's ownership of the buildings, fixed assets and site infrastructure at the US base at RAF Menwith Hill. [37945]

**Nick Harvey:** The site and all buildings, fixed assets, as well as the infrastructure at RAF Menwith Hill are held by the Ministry of Defence on a freehold basis.

#### HOME DEPARTMENT

##### Animal Products: Smuggling

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the UK Border Agency were engaged in the enforcement of anti-smuggling controls in respect of products of animal origin in (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11. [38007]

**Damian Green:** The United Kingdom Border Agency employed 8,115 front-line officers in 2009-10. As of December 2010, the staffing figures for 2010-11 show that we employ 7,954 frontline officers.

All front-line UK Border Agency staff are deployed to tackle a range of risks at the border and most work on a multi functional basis.

Deployment decisions are based on an assessment of the risk. Officers are also supported in their anti-smuggling activities, including those for products of animal origin (POAO), by detector dogs and x-ray technology.

The agency works closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to ensure that our POAO border targeting is responsive to the changing threats that our borders may face.

##### Anti-terrorism Control Orders

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people of each nationality have been subject to a control order since such orders were introduced; [32929]

(2) how many of those against whom a control order has been issued since 2005 were foreign nationals; and how many of these returned to their country of origin subsequent to the issuing of such an order; [32930]

(3) how many provisional orders she and her predecessors have made; and on what date each such order was made since 2005; [33080]

(4) how many control orders there are in place; [33084]

(5) how many control orders have been issued since such orders were introduced; [33085]

(6) how many requests for a control order have been refused since such orders were introduced; [33132]

(7) how many times she and her predecessors have applied for a control order since such orders were introduced; and how many times such applications have been granted; [33136]

(8) how many of those subject to a control order are also subject to an anonymity order; [33143]



(9) how many times the Government has sought a control order requiring a derogation of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights since such orders were introduced. [33144]

**Nick Herbert:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department reports to Parliament on the exercise of her powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 on a quarterly basis, and additionally on an ad hoc basis if required. The most recent report, published on 16 December 2010, sets out that at 10 December 2010, the most recent date covered by the report, there were eight control orders in force, all of which were in respect of British citizens.

48 individuals have ever been subject to a control order; 20 British nationals and 28 foreign nationals. 10 of the foreign nationals were subject to a control order only until the necessary arrangements were in place to begin deportation proceedings, nine of these 10 had previously been subject to immigration detention under Part 4 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.

No derogating control order has ever been applied for or made.

All of the individuals currently subject to a control order, and most of those who have ever been subject to a control order, are also subject to a court-imposed anonymity order. This prevents the publication of information that would identify, or would tend to identify, an individual as being subject to a control order. I am therefore not able to confirm how many of the 28 foreign nationals were returned to their country of origin subsequent to their control order being made. Nor can we confirm the number of individuals of each nationality other than British.

Section 3(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 provides that (other than in cases of urgency) the Secretary of State must make an application to the High Court for permission to make a non-derogating control order, which the court may give:

'unless it determines that the decision (of the Home Secretary that there are grounds to make that order) is obviously flawed'.

I have taken 'applications' and 'requests' for a control order to refer to such applications to the court. I am not able to confirm how many such applications the Secretary of State has made for permission to make a control order, or how many of these have been granted, as this information has not been collated.

I have taken 'provisional orders' to mean orders that were made for a contingency but not served. The quarterly reports to Parliament confirm the making and revocation, expiry or quashing of control orders, and now routinely note where an order has been made and not served. I refer the right hon. Member to the statements dated:

16 December 2010  
16 September 2010  
21 June 2010  
16 March 2010  
15 December 2009  
16 September 2009  
15 June 2009  
12 March 2009  
15 December 2008  
15 September 2008

12 June 2008  
13 March 2008  
12 December 2007  
17 September 2007  
21 June 2007 (two statements)  
24 May 2007  
22 March 2007  
16 January 2007  
11 December 2006  
11 September 2006  
12 June 2006  
13 March 2006  
12 December 2005  
10 October 2005  
16 June 2005

The reports do not confirm why the orders were not served, including whether the order was made on a contingency basis, given the national security sensitivity of such cases and the need to preserve the anonymity of individuals against whom a control order has been made. I am not therefore able to confirm the numbers of contingency control orders that have been made or the dates on which they were made.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people on control orders absconded in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of these were subsequently caught; [32931]

(2) how many control orders have been breached since such orders were introduced; and what penalty was imposed as a result of each such breach. [33141]

**Nick Herbert:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department reports to Parliament on the exercise of her powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 on a quarterly basis, and additionally on an ad hoc basis if required. No individuals absconded from a control order in the latest period (11 September 2010 to 10 December 2010).

Seven individuals have absconded from control orders since the regime's introduction in 2005, with the most recent abscond taking place in June 2007. One individual handed himself in to the police following his abscond. In relation to the locations and status of the other six individuals who absconded, I refer the right hon. Member to written ministerial statements published on:

11 December 2006;  
16 January 2007;  
22 March 2007;  
24 May 2007;  
21 June 2007 (two statements);  
17 September 2007; and  
13 March 2008.

These statements give as much information as the Government can provide about the individuals concerned given the national security sensitivity of these cases and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to a court-imposed anonymity order.

The written ministerial statements give as much information as can be provided about breaches of control orders and, where applicable, action taken. The information

given is limited for national security reasons and in order to avoid prejudicing any law enforcement interests. In addition to the statements referred to above I refer the right hon. Member to the statements published on:

16 December 2010;  
16 September 2010;  
21 June 2010;  
16 March 2010;  
15 December 2009;  
16 September 2009;  
15 June 2009;  
12 March 2009;  
15 December 2008;  
15 September 2008;  
12 June 2008;  
12 December 2007;  
11 September 2006;  
12 June 2006;  
13 March 2006;  
12 December 2005;  
10 October 2005; and  
16 June 2005.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of her Department's expenditure on legal matters relating to control orders since such orders were introduced;

[32932]

(2) how much the Government have spent defending legal challenges to control orders since such orders were introduced;

[33083]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of enforcing each current control order in the latest period for which figures are available. [33134]

**Nick Herbert:** The amount spent by the Home Office on legal matters associated with control orders in each financial year starting from April 2006 until the end of March 2010 is set out in the following table. These figures include the costs of the Home Office's own legal representation and advice, the costs of the special advocates and the Special Advocates Support Office and meeting the legal costs of the controlled persons where this has been ordered by the court. The figure for the financial year 2006-07 is based partially on estimates. All figures are rounded to the nearest £100.

*Amount spent by the Home Office on legal matters relating to control orders*

| Financial year | £         |
|----------------|-----------|
| 2006-07        | 1,530,900 |
| 2007-08        | 3,766,200 |
| 2008-09        | 1,837,300 |
| 2009-10        | 2,254,400 |
| Total          | 9,388,900 |

It is not possible to provide the amount spent on legal matters relating to control orders in the financial year 2005-06 (the year in which control orders were introduced) because of the way the costs have been accounted for. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The enforcement of control orders is carried out by the police. The cost is managed from within each police force's overall budget, which includes specific funding for counter-terrorism policing. The Home Office does not have an estimate of the cost of enforcing each control order for each police force. I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statements on the allocation of counter-terrorism funding for police authorities for each financial year from 2005-06 to 2010-11 which were published on, respectively:

2 December 2004;  
5 December 2005;  
28 November 2006;  
6 December 2007;  
26 November 2008;  
26 November 2009; and  
13 December 2010.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of those currently subject to a control order have lodged an appeal against their order;

[33082]

(2) how many control orders have been challenged since such orders were introduced; and how many such challenges have been (a) upheld and (b) rejected;

[33137]

(3) how many court hearings relating to control orders were (a) open and (b) closed sessions in the latest period for which figures are available;

[33140]

(4) how many times a control order has been subject to judicial review since such orders were introduced; and in what proportion of such reviews the challenge was (a) upheld and (b) rejected.

[33142]

**Nick Herbert:** Under section 14 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (PTA) my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is required to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the exercise of the control order powers during that period. This quarterly update includes the number of appeals lodged under the PTA and the outcome of court judgments in relation to control orders.

Every time a control order is imposed by the Secretary of State, the individual concerned is entitled to an automatic review by the High Court. Section 3(10) of the PTA provides that at such a hearing the court must review (a) the Secretary of State's decision that the requirements for making an order were met and (b) her decision on the imposition of each of the obligations in the order. The individual may request the discontinuance of these proceedings, but otherwise the hearing under section 3(10) of the PTA will proceed. This means that individuals who have been subject to more than one control order may have had more than one court review under section 3(10) of the PTA, and as a result some individuals are included more than once in the following figures.

11 control orders have been upheld by the Court at the review under section 3(10) of the PTA and 14 have been quashed or revoked. Of the 14 that have been quashed or revoked, four were found to have been properly imposed but no longer necessary at the time of the hearing.

The combined total number of orders upheld, quashed and revoked (25) is lower than the total number of individuals subject to control orders (48 as of 10 December 2010, the last date covered by the most recent written ministerial statement published on control orders) for a number of reasons. These include the fact the figure (25) does not include cases where the section 3(10) hearing has yet to be heard, cases where the controlled individual either discontinued their proceedings or absconded from the control order before the hearing took place or cases where the Secretary of State conceded that she could not make sufficient disclosure to comply with her obligations under article 6 and so revoked the control order.

The judgments of these reviews under section 3(10) of the PTA have frequently been subject to appeal to the higher courts by both the individual subject to the control order and the Secretary of State. The numbers given refer only to the final outcome of a review, so, for example, if a control order was upheld by the High Court but revoked on appeal, it is recorded as having been revoked. Where a High Court decision has been made and that decision is subject to an appeal (which has yet to be heard), the decision of the High Court is reflected in the figures.

The figures recorded above also exclude those cases where the original decision has been overturned and the case has been remitted to the High Court to be heard again and this hearing has yet to take place. The Secretary of State has revoked a small number of historical control orders rather than make damaging disclosure required under article 6 (right to a fair trial), and these have not been included as having been upheld or rejected by the courts because the reviews were not completed. (The figures also exclude interim procedural hearings that have taken place, such as case management and disclosure hearings—at which no substantive decision on the control order was made).

Section 10 of the PTA makes provision for an individual to appeal against (a) the renewal of a control order, (b) a modification to an obligation in a control order made without the individual's consent, (c) the decision to refuse an individual's request for the modification of an obligation and (d) the decision to refuse an individual's request for the revocation of a control order.

As reported in the quarterly written ministerial statements, 77 appeals have been lodged under section 10 of the PTA since it came into force on 11 March 2005. Some individuals have submitted more than one appeal under section 10 which means that the total number of appeals lodged does not match the total number of individuals who have ever been subject to a control order (48). These appeals were in many cases heard at the same time as the review under section 3(10) of the PTA and the outcome recorded in a single judgment; in other cases several section 10 appeals have been heard together where they have related to the same individual. For this reason, it is not possible to provide separate figures for the outcome of each section 10 appeal.

As set out above, the PTA makes provision for the automatic review of a control order by the High Court, and for appeals against various control order decisions. Exceptionally, two individuals made applications for judicial review against modifications to their control

order (rather than pursuing an appeal under section 10 of the PTA). Both were refused permission to bring a Judicial Review.

Each Court review of the decision to impose a control order and each section 10 appeal begins with an open session. In addition, there is usually a closed session during which sensitive information, which it would be contrary to the public interest to disclose in open, can be examined by the Court with the assistance of the special advocates representing the interests of the individual. Following the June 2009 House of Lords judgment in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AF & Others* [2009] UKHL 28, an individual subject to a control order must be given sufficient information about the allegations against him for him to give effective instructions to the special advocate.

The Home Office does not hold figures for the number of hearings relating to control orders that were held in (a) open and (b) closed as movement from open into closed and back again is often fluid and can depend on issues that arise during the course of a hearing, or even a single session.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many control orders issued since such orders were introduced have included an element of (a) house arrest and (b) curfew; [33133]

(2) what specific conditions were attached to each control order issued since 2005. [33134]

**Nick Herbert:** The obligations a person subject to a control order is required to adhere to can change throughout the life of the control order and are tailored to the circumstances of the individual case at the time they are in place. In order to protect individuals' court-imposed anonymity and for reasons of national security we cannot provide full details of obligations in each case. I refer the right hon. Member to Lord Carlile of Berriew's annual reports on the operation of the control order powers dated:

2 February 2006;  
19 February 2007;  
18 February 2008;  
3 February 2009; and  
1 February 2010.

These reports, copies of which can be found in the House Library, contain a significant amount of anonymised information about the obligations to which controlled individuals have been subject.

Further information on obligations in individual cases may be found in open court judgments in respect of the cases. Most open judgments can be found on:

[www.bailii.org](http://www.bailii.org)

Of the 48 individuals ever made subject to a control order, 43 have been subject to a curfew for some or all of the time their order was in force. The longest curfews ever imposed were 18 hours per day; these were put in place before the courts judged in 2006 and 2007 that curfews of this length amounted to a deprivation of liberty. The longest curfew that can currently be imposed under a non-drogating control order is 16 hours per day. Where curfews have been imposed, not all of them have been or are of that length. The curfew imposed in any case depends on the particular risk posed by the



individual concerned. Some individuals have had curfews of only two or three hours per day imposed. Most curfews have been or are between these two extremes.

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been subject to a control order since the implementation of the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005; and how many of those were subsequently charged with acts relating to terrorism; [33326]

(2) when she plans to answer question 33326 tabled on 10 January 2011 for answer on 13 January 2011. [37273]

**Nick Herbert** [holding answers 13 and 31 January 2011]: 48 individuals have ever been subject to a control order. All of the individuals currently subject to a control order, and most of those who have ever been subject to a control order, are also subject to a court-imposed anonymity order. This prevents the publication of information that would identify, or would tend to identify, an individual as being subject to a control order. Since clarifying the number of those who have subsequently been charged would—together with information already in the public domain about individuals who have been charged with such offences—tend to breach the court-imposed anonymity order, it is not possible to provide this information.

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the costs to her Department of (a) administering control orders and (b) defending legal actions in relation to control orders since their introduction. [37322]

**Nick Herbert:** The cost to the Home Office of administering control orders and defending legal actions in relation to control orders in each financial year starting from April 2006 until the end of March 2010 is set out in the following table.

The legal costs include the costs of the Home Office's own legal representation and advice, the costs of the special advocates and the Special Advocates Support Office and meeting the legal costs of the controlled persons where this has been ordered by the court. The cost of administering control orders includes the cost of accommodation, subsistence, council tax, telephone and utility bills for controlled persons; and the staff and administrative costs to the Home Office of staff working on control orders. The figure for the financial year 2006-07 is based partially on estimates. All figures are rounded to the nearest £100.

It is not possible to provide the amount spent on matters relating to control orders in the financial year 2005-06 (the year in which control orders were introduced) because of the way the costs have been accounted for. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

|                                                         | 2006-07   | 2007-08   | 2008-09   | 2009-10   | Total <sup>1</sup> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| Cost to the Home Office of administering control orders | 409,400   | 849,400   | 870,300   | 941,000   | 3,070,000          |
| Legal costs to the Home Office                          | 1,530,900 | 3,766,200 | 1,837,300 | 2,254,400 | 9,388,900          |

<sup>1</sup> 2006-07 to 2009-10

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the renewal of expired control orders. [37324]

**Nick Herbert:** The framework for the making, expiry and renewal of control orders is set out in the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend, may not renew an expired control order but can renew an order before it expires. She may also make a new control order against the subject of a previously expired order. The Secretary of State takes decisions in individual cases in accordance with the statutory framework.

#### Association of Chief Police Officers

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the accountability and transparency of the Association of Chief Police Officers. [36283]

**Nick Herbert:** As made clear in the 'Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People' consultation document, the Secretary of State for the Home Department has made accountability and transparency key considerations in determining the future role of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

ACPO itself recognises that it is has to improve these areas, which includes it being more open about its activities and how it is using the public money it receives in the most efficient way possible. This is vitally important for ACPO as its role evolves in relation to providing the professional leadership of the police service. To that end the Government are working constructively with ACPO to agree the most appropriate structure for it to succeed.

#### Asylum

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum period of detention is for a stateless person in an immigration detention centre. [38756]

**Damian Green:** Immigration Act powers of detention are not time limited. However, detention must be kept to the minimum period reasonably necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised and must not be unduly prolonged. The length of those periods will vary between individual cases depending on their particular circumstances. Where a person seeks to frustrate their removal from the UK their detention may be prolonged as a consequence; the courts have upheld this position.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people classified as stateless were held in immigration detention centres on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38758]

**Damian Green:** As at 30 September 2010, the latest date for which National Statistics have been published, five people (figure rounded to the nearest five) classified as stateless were detained solely under Immigration Act powers, in UK Border Agency Immigration Removal Centres and Short Term Holding Facilities. The Home Office publishes National Statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html)

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency unit dealing with older unresolved asylum cases is on schedule to resolve all such cases by its target date of summer 2011. [38759]

**Damian Green:** The agency provides regular updates on performance, including a breakdown into grants, removals and "other" cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee and is next due to report in the spring.

On 1 November the agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded 334,500 cases and is on track to conclude the legacy backlog by summer 2011.

#### Bomb Disposal: Armed Forces

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been (a) investigated and (b) arrested on suspicion of exporting ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices to Afghanistan since January 2010; [38346]

(2) how many people have been (a) investigated and (b) arrested on suspicion of exporting ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices to Iraq since January 2010. [38349]

**Nick Herbert** [holding answer 4 February 2011]: The information requested is not collected centrally.

#### Undercover Police Operations

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been (a) arrested, (b) charged and (c) convicted following police operations using undercover officers in each of the last 10 years; and how many of these were environmental protestors. [36280]

**Nick Herbert:** The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office is based on aggregated data and covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, police force area and main offence group, for example violence against the person,

sexual offences, robbery, burglary and drugs offences. There is no information about the circumstances behind the arrests and so it is not possible to separately identify what arrests were made as a result of undercover police operations.

Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database do not include information about the circumstances behind each case other than which may be identified from a statute. It is therefore not possible to separately identify those offences proceeded against resulting from police operations using undercover police officers or how many of the defendants were environmental protestors.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned to be published in the spring of 2011.

#### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ministerial cars have been used by her Department since May 2010. [36641]

**Damian Green:** To allow contracts entered into by the previous Government to be terminated, six ministerial cars remained allocated to the Home Office from May 2010 to September 2010. In line with the new Ministerial Code, since 6 September two cars have been allocated for ministerial use, one of which is provided by the Metropolitan police for the Home Secretary.

#### Departmental Press: Subscriptions

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on newspapers and magazines since May 2010. [37577]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office purchases all newspapers, periodicals and trade profession journals via a framework agreement, which is in place for Home Office headquarters and the UK Border Agency. The spend from May 2010 for headquarters is £21,952.82.

It should be noted that occasionally business areas purchase individual copies of particular newspapers or magazines to meet urgent business needs. These are funded from devolved budgets for which figures are not available, and they are therefore not included.

#### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what public appointments she has made since her appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled; [35426]

(2) how many (a) women and (b) men have been appointed to public duties by her Department since May 2010. [35404]

**Nick Herbert:** Since her appointment as Home Secretary, the following appointments and reappointments have been made:

| Body                                            | Name of appointee                        | New appointment/reappointment                    | Payments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Professor Les Iversen (chair)            | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Ms Annette Dale-Perera                   | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Dr Paul Dargan                           | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Ms Sarah Graham                          | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Judge Kyrie LI James                     | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Mr Nigel Kirby                           | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Mrs Jo Melling                           | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Dr Hans-Christian Raabe                  | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Professor Fabrizio Schifano              | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs         | Dr Harry Sumnall                         | New appointment three years                      | No remuneration, travel and subsistence only                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner | Suzanne McCarthy (commissioner)          | Reappointment five years                         | Remuneration of £66,226 (three days a week). Entitled to reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred in the course of official OISC business.                                                                                                            |
| National Policing Improvement Agency            | Peter Holland (chair)                    | Reappointed until 31 March 2012                  | £72,000 per annum (average of three days per week). Entitled to claim travel and subsistence actually and necessarily incurred in the course of official business, including rail travel between home and office. BBA (Broadly By Analogy) pension to CSPS. |
| Migration Advisory Committee                    | Professor David Metcalf (chair)          | Reappointed three years                          | £41,943 (96 days per year on MAC business). Travel expenses.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Migration Advisory Committee                    | Jonathan Wadsworth                       | Reappointed three years                          | No remuneration but able to claim £275 per day (plus travel expenses) on MAC business                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Migration Advisory Committee                    | Dr Martin Ruhs                           | Reappointed three years                          | No remuneration but able to claim £275 per day (plus travel expenses) on MAC business                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Migration Advisory Committee                    | Diane Coyle                              | Reappointed two years                            | No remuneration but able to claim £275 per day (plus travel expenses) on MAC business                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Migration Advisory Committee                    | Professor Rob Wilson                     | Reappointed two years                            | No remuneration but able to claim £275 per day (plus travel expenses) on MAC business                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Serious Organised Crime Agency                  | Trevor Pearce (interim director general) | Appointed for a term to be decided               | £142,478 pa plus £3,162 London Location Allowance. Reimbursement of expenses in line with SOCA policy. Use (not exclusive) of car and occasional overnight accommodation necessarily incurred in the course of SOCA business.                               |
| Forensic Science Regulator                      | Andrew Rennison                          | Reappointed three years (starting February 2011) | £98,252 (includes non-pensionable remuneration for his role as Interim CCTV regulator)                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Independent reviewer of terrorism legislation.  | David Anderson QC                        | Appointed (starting early 2011)                  | Daily fee. Reimbursed for any expenses incurred in the carrying out of the role and provided with a small fixed allowance for research purposes.                                                                                                            |
| Independent Advisor for Criminality information | Sunita Mason                             | Reappointed until September 2011                 | Details of remuneration not publicly available.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

### Deportation: Northern Ireland

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are made for families resident in Northern Ireland awaiting removal for immigration reasons. [38271]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency encourages all families to leave the UK voluntarily and offers help and support to do so. However, where they refuse we will seek to ensure return. We are currently in the

process of implementing the new approach to family returns that was announced on 16 December 2010 that will apply across the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, from 1 March 2011. Full details of this new process are on the UK Border Agency website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/26-end-child-detention/child-detention-conclusions.pdf>



### Detention Centres: Northern Ireland

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements she plans to put in place for the children of adults detained in the planned immigration detention facility in Northern Ireland. [38270]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency will always first seek to achieve voluntary departure of illegal migrant families. In those cases where it is necessary to detain a parent in an immigration removal centre who has a child in the community, the UK Border Agency will seek to facilitate contact between the parent and child, subject to the wishes of the family, and in liaison with the local authority, where appropriate.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effect on the economy of a (a) 10%, (b) 50% and (c) 100 per cent. reduction in the number of international students studying in England. [38101]

**Damian Green [holding answer 3 February 2011]:** A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. The consultation sought the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The results of the consultation and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

### Extradition

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are held in the UK awaiting extradition to (a) EU countries and (b) non-EU countries. [37490]

**Nick Herbert:** The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for Scotland are the designated UK authorities responsible for processing European arrest warrants (EAWs). The EAW governs extradition arrangements between member states of the EU.

As of 31 January 2011, according to SOCA records, there are 215 people remanded in custody in the United Kingdom at varying stages of the EAW extradition process.

55 people are currently in detention pursuant to extradition requests received by the Home Office from non-EU countries. This figure includes England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It does not include extradition requests made directly to Scotland.

**Lorraine Fullbrook:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to her Department in each cost category was of responding to requests for extradition in each year since 2006. [37689]

**Nick Herbert:** Many agencies and Departments are involved in the extradition process. These include HM Courts Service, the Metropolitan police service, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Home Office. It is not possible to provide a complete or accurate breakdown

of the costs borne specifically by the Home Office or to distinguish the cost of responding to extradition requests made to the UK apart from those made by the UK.

There are a number of categories of costs incurred by the Department including the staffing and other costs of the Home Office Extradition Section; the staffing and other costs of obtaining legal advice on extradition requests; and the costs to the wider Home Office, including those involved in border control and counter-terrorism. In each agency and category, extradition requests made to the United Kingdom form part of the overall and larger judicial co-operation work load, and it is not possible with any accuracy or without disproportionate cost to stipulate the cost of responding to requests made to the United Kingdom.

**Lorraine Fullbrook:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for extradition from the UK in (a) 2006, (b) 2007, (c) 2008, (d) 2009 and (e) 2010 (i) were granted, (ii) were denied and (iii) remain outstanding. [37692]

**Nick Herbert:** The following table gives the year in which the person concerned was actually extradited or the request denied; the request for their extradition may have been made in a previous year. These do not include figures for Scotland.

It is not possible to provide figures for the number of outstanding cases for each year. However, there are currently 73 extradition requests under the 2003 Extradition Act which have not been completed.

The figures do not include requests received from countries with which the UK does not have extradition relations.

Miscellaneous refers to a number of reasons, including, a warrant not being issued; the person being arrested in another country and the death of the subject of a request.

| Incoming requests             | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Requests received             | 64   | 49   | 57   | 81   | 86   |
| Surrendered                   | 45   | 29   | 17   | 38   | 27   |
| Discharged (by courts)        | 19   | 12   | 10   | 10   | 8    |
| Refused (Secretary of State)  | 5    | 5    | 4    | 1    | 4    |
| Withdrawn by requesting state | 14   | 10   | 4    | 7    | 5    |
| Not returned (miscellaneous)  | 4    | 20   | 13   | 14   | 11   |

### Identity Cards: Lost Property

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign workers' identity cards have been lost while in transit between the office of the UK Border Agency and the individual in the last year for which figures are available. [38213]

**Damian Green:** In 2010, of the 213,000 Biometric Residence Permits issued, eight were lost in transit and 21 were signed for by someone at the address but not passed to the intended recipient. All 29 permits were subsequently cancelled.

### Industrial Health and Safety

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on reviewing the health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since her appointment. [36973]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office's Health and Safety Team monitors and reviews the Department's health and safety policy by audit and inspection to ensure compliance against legislation set by the Health and Safety Executive.

A review of health and safety regulations, as they relate to policing, has been progressed as part of Lord Young's review of the operation of health and safety laws and the growth of the compensation culture. His report was published on 15 October 2010 and we have agreed in principle with his recommendation that police officers should not be at risk of investigation or prosecution under health and safety legislation when engaged in the course of their duties if they put themselves at risk as a result of committing a heroic act. We have agreed to work with the Health and Safety Executive, the Association of Chief Police Officers, and the Crown Prosecution Service to consider further guidance to put this principle in to effect.

### Judiciary: Equality

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice on the training offered to immigration judges on gender and equality issues; and if she will make a statement. [38146]

**Damian Green:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department has regular meetings with the Secretary of State for Justice to discuss matters of shared interest. These discussions have not focussed specifically on the training offered to immigration judges on gender and equality issues.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of (a) 23 November, (b) 20 December and (c) 21 December 2010 regarding the comprehensive spending review. [35836]

**Nick Herbert** [holding answer 24 January 2011]: I refer my hon. Friend to my letter of 30 January 2011. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions of 15 October 2010 transferred to her Department by the Ministerial Correspondence Unit (ref POS(31)11222/0049). [36473]

**Nick Herbert:** I wrote to my hon. Friend on 30 January 2011. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

### Passports

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) procedure and (b) time frame is for activating a residency permit in a passport which grants temporary or permanent right of abode in the UK. [38180]

**Damian Green:** All immigration permits issued in the UK are immediately activated upon issuance whether they grant temporary or permanent settlement. Visas which are issued overseas are usually activated upon issue although there is a discretion for the commencement date to be delayed by up to three months from the date of issue.

### Police: Complaints

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the provisions of Police Reform Act 2002 relating to the body which hears complaints from former police officers for the purposes of ensuring independence and transparency. [37534]

**Nick Herbert:** I have no current plans to do so.

It is open to former police officers or members of police staff to make a complaint to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in the same way as any other member of the public, except where any allegation relates to conduct which took place while they were still a serving member of a police force, and occurred when they were on duty, or relates to the conduct of another member of the same police force.

### Police: Finance

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects the review by Tom Winsor into pay and conditions in the police service to result in cost savings for the purposes of reducing financial pressures on police authorities. [37029]

**Nick Herbert:** The review's full terms of reference have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Police: Retirement

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the use of rule A19 to require experienced police officers to retire involuntarily from police services. [38583]

**Nick Herbert:** The use of regulation A19 is a matter for individual chief officers, working with their police authorities. There are no plans to review regulation A19 specifically. Tom Winsor is leading an independent review of remuneration and conditions of service for police officers and staff. He has indicated that, as part of the review, he will be looking at the ways that officers currently leave the service.

### Police: Tasers

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the (a) number of X12 Tasers and (b) quantity of ammunition for such devices held by each police force. [37615]

**Nick Herbert:** No X12 Tasers or ammunition are currently held by police forces in England and Wales for operational use. The X12 Taser is not approved for police use in England and Wales.

Pro-Tect Systems Ltd's authority to supply Taser was withdrawn on 28 September 2010. Northamptonshire police, the force area where Pro-Tect are based, removed the seven X12 Tasers and ammunition held by Pro-Tect. These are currently held by Northamptonshire police awaiting destruction.

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason her Department has ceased regular publication of statistics on police use of Taser weapons; when data from the fourth quarter of 2009 and from 2010 will be published; whether routine publication will resume; and if she will take steps to provide timely and informative statistics in future publications. [37972]

**Nick Herbert [holding answer 3 February 2011]:** The next set of figures on the reported and recorded uses of Taser by police forces in England and Wales since introduction in April 2004 up to 31 March 2010 are being validated and will be published in the spring.

The Government are committed both to transparency on the use of Taser and to reducing data burdens on police forces and is currently reviewing the future collection and publication of Taser statistics.

### Police: Training

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans she has for future arrangements for police training; and if she will make a statement; [37203]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the police on future arrangements for police training. [37208]

**Nick Herbert:** I meet regularly with police representative bodies to discuss matters of interest, including the professional development of the police service.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department has asked Chief Constable Peter Neyroud to review police leadership and training.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans she has for the future of Hendon Police Training Centre; and if she will make a statement; [37204]

(2) what assessment she has made of the implications of the closure of Hendon Police Training Centre for the quality of policing in the future. [37209]

**Nick Herbert:** Plans for the future of Hendon Police Training Centre are a matter for the Metropolitan police service and the Metropolitan police authority.

### Special Constables

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables there were in each police authority area in (a) 1995, (b) 2000, (c) 2005 and (d) 2010. [37206]

**Nick Herbert:** The requested information is given in the following table.

The latest provisional police service strength statistics relate to 30 September 2010 and were published on 27 January 2011. They are available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html>

Full annual statistics for 31 March 2011 are expected to be published in July 2011.

*Total strength<sup>1</sup> for special constables by police force area, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010*

| Police force area   | As at 31 March each year |      |      |       |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------|------|-------|
|                     | 1995 <sup>2</sup>        | 2000 | 2005 | 2010  |
| Avon and Somerset   | 651                      | 459  | 396  | 449   |
| Bedfordshire        | 189                      | 151  | 209  | 210   |
| Cambridgeshire      | 279                      | 274  | 199  | 167   |
| Cheshire            | 321                      | 350  | 192  | 300   |
| Cleveland           | 212                      | 128  | 66   | 238   |
| Cumbria             | 241                      | 176  | 126  | 115   |
| Derbyshire          | 434                      | 282  | 369  | 302   |
| Devon and Cornwall  | 1,142                    | 870  | 582  | 592   |
| Dorset              | 221                      | 298  | 230  | 300   |
| Durham              | 200                      | 157  | 91   | 131   |
| Essex               | 674                      | 483  | 363  | 682   |
| Gloucestershire     | 320                      | 206  | 146  | 167   |
| Greater Manchester  | 768                      | 457  | 380  | 400   |
| Hampshire           | 598                      | 615  | 369  | 449   |
| Hertfordshire       | 320                      | 216  | 226  | 344   |
| Humberside          | 427                      | 246  | 328  | 341   |
| Kent                | 569                      | 436  | 338  | 310   |
| Lancashire          | 608                      | 382  | 319  | 470   |
| Leicestershire      | 356                      | 247  | 181  | 240   |
| Lincolnshire        | 322                      | 195  | 179  | 163   |
| London, City of     | 83                       | 56   | 52   | 79    |
| Merseyside          | 384                      | 476  | 259  | 446   |
| Metropolitan Police | 1,550                    | 758  | 697  | 3,177 |
| Norfolk             | 345                      | 285  | 253  | 266   |
| Northamptonshire    | 303                      | 199  | 242  | 180   |
| Northumbria         | 506                      | 332  | 240  | 178   |
| North Yorkshire     | 381                      | 217  | 173  | 184   |
| Nottinghamshire     | 552                      | 411  | 333  | 298   |
| South Yorkshire     | 452                      | 205  | 204  | 227   |
| Staffordshire       | 725                      | 482  | 409  | 334   |
| Suffolk             | 409                      | 391  | 267  | 328   |
| Surrey              | 238                      | 175  | 289  | 327   |
| Sussex              | 527                      | 352  | 200  | 240   |
| Thames Valley       | 679                      | 472  | 375  | 408   |
| Warwickshire        | 352                      | 260  | 190  | 212   |
| West Mercia         | 582                      | 476  | 263  | 233   |
| West Midlands       | 818                      | 680  | 959  | 591   |
| West Yorkshire      | 777                      | 484  | 417  | 421   |
| Wiltshire           | 318                      | 173  | 174  | 250   |
| Dyfed-Powys         | 302                      | 202  | 167  | 171   |
| Gwent               | 126                      | 119  | 144  | 144   |
| North Wales         | 288                      | 247  | 124  | 193   |



Total strength<sup>1</sup> for special constables by police force area, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010

| Police force area                    | As at 31 March each year |        |        |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                      | 1995 <sup>2</sup>        | 2000   | 2005   | 2010   |
| South Wales                          | 477                      | 267    | 198    | 248    |
| Total 43 forces in England and Wales | 20,026                   | 14,347 | 11,918 | 15,505 |

<sup>1</sup> Total strength is based on headcount figures.

<sup>2</sup> Strength figures for special constables were collected by HMIC for between 1985-95. Home Office Statistics have been collecting and publishing this data since 31 March 1996. Figures published prior to March 1996 are considered to be less reliable and are therefore not directly comparable with figures published after this date.

### Terrorism: Bail

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the granting of pre-charge bail to terror suspects. [37323]

**Nick Herbert:** The policy on granting pre-charge bail to terror suspects, and pre-charge detention more generally, is set out in the findings from the review of counter-terrorism and security powers which were published on 26 January 2011. A copy has been placed in the House Library and is available on the Home Office website. The review found that pre-charge police bail was unlikely to be a substitute for extended pre-charge detention. While the review considered that there could be merit in granting bail to terrorist suspects before charge, there would be risks for public safety in releasing terrorist suspects when the nature and extent of their involvement in terrorism was still being investigated. We are not, therefore, intending to enable bail to be granted to terrorist suspects before charge.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the state of Africa's North-South Corridor road network; and if he will make a statement. [38134]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The latest assessment of the state of Africa's North-South Corridor (NSC) road network in 2010 found that of the total 8,599 kilometre road network: 28% or 2,403 kilometre of roads are in good condition and require nothing more than routine maintenance; 60% or 5,156 kilometre of roads will be in good condition for the next two to five years, but will require upgrading or rehabilitation design to start in the short to medium term; and 12% or 1,041 kilometre of roads require immediate rehabilitation or upgrading.

The UK is supporting investment in the NSC through the TradeMark Southern Africa Programme, contributing £100 million up until 2014. In addition to our support to the NSC, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr O'Brien), launched the £78 million TradeMark East Africa programme on 1 February 2011, which will support infrastructure development and trade facilitation across East Africa.

### UK Border Agency: Manpower

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the UK Border Agency employed in (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11; and what forecast she has made of the equivalent figure in each of the next four years. [38051]

**Damian Green:** The number of people that the UK Border Agency employed in 2008-09 and 2009-10 is set out in the following table:

| End of financial year    | Employees who are full-time equivalent (FTE), civil servants | Workforce including agency workers and others such as loans from other Government Departments and those who are engaged locally overseas (FTE) |        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                          |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                |        |
| (a) 2008-09              | 16,878                                                       |                                                                                                                                                | 17,532 |
| (b) 2009-10 <sup>1</sup> | 22,389                                                       |                                                                                                                                                | 24,467 |

<sup>1</sup> This figure is higher than the previous year, following Machinery of Government changes, which joined together part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office known as UK Visas as well as the Detection part of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to make the UK Border Agency. The transfers of workforce to UKBA were: (a) 4,705 from HM Revenue and Customs and (b) 2,254 from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The forecast for (c) is that there will be a workforce of around 23,200 (FTE) staff in the agency at the end of the year 2010-11 and by 31 March 2015 we expect there to be around 18,000 staff working for the agency. This means a reduction of around 5,200 posts from 31 March 2011.

A detailed breakdown of staff numbers year on year is not yet available.

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Approximately 1.3 million people are killed and 50 million injured in road accidents each year, 85% from low and middle-income countries. This means that road accidents kill more people annually than malaria and just less than TB. Ministers will shortly be considering UK policy on this area.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to encourage investment in Africa's North-South Corridor road network; and if he will make a statement. [38136]

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa: Roads

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to encourage better road safety on African roads; and if he will make a statement. [38135]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The COMESA-EAC-SADC (the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)) Tripartite, representing 26 countries, is leading the promotion and co-ordination of investment along the North-South Corridor (NSC).

The UK is supporting investment in the NSC through the TradeMark Southern Africa Programme which works directly with the Tripartite. The Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing £100 million up until 2014, for the construction and improvement of roads and to support the establishment of an infrastructure project preparation and implementation unit to oversee and accelerate infrastructure investment and projects. This unit and DFID's wider efforts will be instrumental in leveraging further financial investment in the NSC from the wider international community.

In addition to our support to the NSC, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr O'Brien) launched the £78 million TradeMark East Africa programme on 1 February, which will support infrastructure development and trade facilitation across East Africa.

#### **New Framework for Results, Choices for Women: Planned Pregnancies**

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's "New Framework for Results, Choices for Women: planned pregnancies, safe births and healthy newborns", what mechanism his Department plans to put in place to reach the poorest 40% of women in the countries where it has programmes.

[38173]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** No single mechanism, instrument or approach alone is sufficient to reach the poorest women; action across the four pillars of the framework for results is necessary. Country offices are currently in the process of developing programmes to meet this plan, and will identify the most appropriate mechanisms for reaching the poorest women in the context in which they are working.

Ensuring that the poorest are benefiting is essential. That is why we will be monitoring regularly to confirm we are achieving the right results.

#### **World Trade Organisation**

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the World Trade Organisation's initiative on aid for trade; and if he will make a statement.

[38137]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) initiative on aid for trade has made good progress, both in raising awareness about the support the poorest countries need to trade more effectively, and by encouraging the integration of trade into the national development strategies of developing countries. While donors have increased aid for trade support substantially over the last five years, what is needed now is a stronger focus on achieving results on the ground. The Government's trade policy unit will be supporting WTO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to prepare for the Global Aid for Trade Review in July 2011. This will be a key opportunity to assess progress to date and agree how to pursue a more rigorous approach to achieving results in the future.

#### **CHURCH COMMISSIONERS**

##### **Church of England: Pay**

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 505W, on Church of England: employment, what the policy of the Church Commissioners is on the payment of a living wage to salaried or waged employees of (a) the Church of England and (b) Church of England parishes who are not clergy.

[38601]

**Tony Baldry:** Employees of the seven Church of England National Church Institutions (NCI's) include all staff working at Lambeth Palace, Lambeth Palace Library, Bishopthorpe Palace in York, the Archbishops Council, the Pensions Board, the National Society for Promoting Religious Education and the Church Commissioners. All salaried and waged employees working for the above institutions on full-time, part-time and casual contracts working for the NCI's earn not less than £9.95 per hour as of 1 July 2010. This rate was negotiated with the relevant trade union representatives as part of the standard salary review procedures of the NCI's. The NCI's are not responsible for the setting of pay scales for the individual dioceses of the Church of England and each diocese therefore sets their own local rates negotiated when appropriate with recognised union representatives.

#### **TRANSPORT**

##### **A11: Repairs and Maintenance**

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date he expects work to begin on improvements to the A11.

[37434]

**Mike Penning:** The Secretary of State's statement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79, on Investment in Highway and Local Transport Schemes identified the A11 Fiveways to Thetford scheme as one on which the Highways Agency would start works before 2015, subject to the completion of statutory processes.

##### **Aviation**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on disruption of air travel; and if he will make a statement.

[37260]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport has received 128 items of correspondence in relation to the effects of December's severe weather on air travel.

##### **Aviation: EU Action**

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received on the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to standardise flight time limitations across the EU; [37353]

(2) whether he plans to commission studies into the likely effects on UK airspace safety of the European

Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to standardise flight time limitations across the EU. [37381]

**Mrs Villiers:** I have received a number of letters from MPs and pilots who are concerned about the proposals contained in the consultation document issued by the European Aviation Safety Agency.

The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals and we will seek to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines.

#### Aviation: Safety

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which pilot fatigue affects aviation safety; and if he will make a statement. [37409]

**Mrs Villiers [holding answer 1 February 2011]:** It is recognised that pilot fatigue can impact on aviation safety. UK airlines are therefore required to have robust flight time limitation schemes to prevent the onset of fatigue. These have to be approved by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The CAA reviews all available information, including newly available research, on the effects of fatigue in aviation and maintains an advisory group with its stakeholders to discuss the effect of crew fatigue on aviation safety.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on travel safety of implementation of the European Aviation Safety Agency's recent proposals for legislation; and if he will make a statement. [37410]

**Mrs Villiers [holding answer 1 February 2011]:** The European Aviation Safety Agency has published draft legislation for consultation. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals and we will seek to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines.

#### Big Society Initiative

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken as part of the Government's big society initiative since May 2010. [37895]

**Norman Baker:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 876-77W.

#### Biofuels: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effect of greater use on rural petrol stations of biodiesel made from used cooking oil. [37878]

**Norman Baker:** Biofuel use in transport fuels is mandated through the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO). The RTFO requires the percentage of biofuel supplied,

by obligated transport fuel suppliers, to increase from 3.5% this year to 5% in 2014-15. Details on the RTFO are available at:

[www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk](http://www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk)

I have commissioned work to assess the capacity of the UK's transport infrastructure for biofuels, and research into the cost-effective deployment of biofuels through to 2050. Both of these reports will consider biofuel use in rural petrol stations and the second will also specifically consider the availability of used cooking oil biodiesel. Both research projects are due to complete this spring and will be published on the Department's website.

#### Crossrail: Public Appointments

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the appointment of a new chief executive for Crossrail. [35200]

**Mrs Villiers:** Finding Rob Holden's successor is a matter for Crossrail Ltd, but we have been assured that the proper process to identify a successor is in hand.

Mr Holden has given six months' notice of his departure from Crossrail Ltd and is therefore expected to remain in post until early summer. My understanding is that the Board of Crossrail Ltd hopes to have appointed a successor prior to Mr Holden's departure.

#### Cycling

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of commuters who cycle to work. [38552]

**Norman Baker:** The Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey estimates the number of people usually travelling to work by cycle in Great Britain in October-December 2009 as 704,000. This represents 3% of all adults in employment.

#### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10% by June 2011. [36609]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport is committed to achieving the 10% carbon reduction target announced by the Prime Minister on 14 May 2010, and I have had discussions with relevant officials to progress this. I will be having further such discussions shortly.

The Department has developed, revised and published, through the Efficiency and Reform Group's Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement, a plan that aims to deliver the savings required by the target. The latest data on performance, to the end of November, are publicly available on the data.gov.uk website:

<http://data.gov.uk/departamental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date>

Performance data are reported monthly, within four weeks of the month end. The next data release (to the end of December 2010) will be available by the end of January 2011, and similarly published on the data.gov.uk website.



Details on the reduction projects the Department for Transport is implementing or considering for implementation is also available on the data.gov.uk website:

<http://data.gov.uk/departamental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date>

This work programme will lead to reductions in our emissions from electricity, gas and fuel oil used on our office estate over the target period.

In addition to those initiatives listed the Department is looking at ways of maximising the shutdown of its offices over the upcoming bank holiday weekends. This follows a similar exercise undertaken over the Christmas period which resulted in a saving of 31% (43 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>) over a similar period in December in the Department's offices at Marsham street. We also continue to work with our facilities management providers to identify any further opportunities to make carbon savings within the target window. It is also our intention to use Climate Week to trial different ways of controlling the heating and cooling of our main buildings, to demonstrate what savings can be made if we change the way buildings are operated. Any additional initiatives will concentrate primarily on behavioural change due to the close proximity of the target end date.

#### Departmental Communication

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35789]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport and its agencies make every effort to reduce jargon and to use plain English in their communications. The central Department has published advice for staff on plain English drafting, and five of our agencies also publish their own guidelines. The Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency has gained the Plain English Crystal mark of approval on more than 100 of its forms.

#### Departmental Pay

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34809]

**Norman Baker:** I regret that this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

#### Departmental Working Conditions

**Mike Freer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on (a) the space provided per employee, (b) home working and (c) hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34598]

**Norman Baker:** The information is as follows:

(a) The Department's policy is to meet the current space standard of 10 square metres per person.

(b) The Department's home working policy as stated in the Staff Handbook is as follows:

You may apply to work at home on a regular basis (for at least one working day per week, with provision of ICT and/or furniture by the Department).

Where it has been agreed that you will work at home on a regular basis Human Resources will issue a variation to your individual contract of employment (see Part A of this Staff Handbook—Chapter 1—Introduction). This contract variation will state:

1. the location at which you will be 'regularly working at home';
2. the days of the week you will 'regularly work at home';
3. the office which will be regarded as the place of work for your post were you not home working.

For pay purposes, your place of work will be the office where your post would be located if you were not home working.

The Department is committed to promoting alternatives to travel within the Department and Government, increase the use of ICT to reduce or move the need to travel. This includes encouraging the take-up of home working, which has the potential to benefit both staff and employers through improved work-life balance and increased productivity.

(c) The Department for Transport has exercised a lease break on approximately one third of its main London Headquarters building and that part of the building will cease to be occupied by the Department from the end of 2012. Currently one desk is provided per person in an open plan environment. This will still be the case following the current staff reorganisation and restack of the adoption of non-territorial working.

As reported in the State of the Estate report the Department for Transport reported occupancy, excluding operational properties, of 12.7 square metres per person in 2008-09. Data for 2009-10, including average desks per employee, are currently being collated.

#### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Ophthalmology

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many opticians in Christchurch constituency have applied to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for authorisation to provide services in connection with vehicle licensing; how many such applications were (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful; and for what reasons each application which was unsuccessful was rejected. [38433]

**Mike Penning [holding answer 4 February 2011]:** Information relating to the number of opticians that have applied to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to carry out visual field testing is not recorded.

There are currently 15 opticians in the county of Dorset, three of which are in Christchurch, registered to carry out visual field testing on behalf of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. Five other practices in the Dorset area are on the waiting list. No figures are available regarding the number of opticians who have applied but were unsuccessful.

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what opticians in Christchurch constituency are authorised by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to provide services in connection with vehicle licensing. [38434]

**Mike Penning** [*holding answer 4 February 2011*]: There are 15 opticians in the county of Dorset who are registered to carry out visual field testing on behalf of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. Three opticians are situated in Christchurch and are shown as follows:

1. Howie and Tickner Opticians
  2. Raxworthy (Christchurch) Ltd.
  3. Ron Johnsen Optometrist
- The others in Dorset are:
1. Robert Frith Optometrists, Shaftesbury
  2. Robert Frith Optometrists, Gillingham
  3. M J B and J Jones Optometrists, Blandford Forum
  4. Ferndown Medical Centre, Ferndown
  5. Christine H Webster Opticians, Wareham
  6. G B Hayden, Lyme Regis
  7. Andrew Care Opticians, Dorchester
  8. Eyestyle Centre Opticians, Ferndown
  9. Optique 200 Opticians, Wimborne
  10. Peacock and Murphy Opticians, Verwood
  11. Eyestyle Centre Opticians, Shaftesbury
  12. Specsavers Opticians, Bridport.

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria the Driver and Vehicles Licensing Agency applies in selecting opticians to carry out eye tests for the purposes of driver licensing; and whether the Agency has assessed any optician as unable to meet such criteria. [38488]

**Mike Penning** [*holding answer 4 February 2011*]: Prior to being selected practices must demonstrate they have the necessary equipment (binocular Humphrey, Dicon and Medmont perimeters, each measuring 120 points, and Henson perimeter measuring 112 points) and are able to carry out an Esterman binocular visual field test within the specified timescale.

Opticians are not registered if they do not have the acceptable equipment or cannot meet the specified time scale. Information relating to the number of opticians not able to meet the criteria is not recorded.

#### **Electric Vehicles: Marketing**

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to promote the use of hybrid vehicles. [37670]

**Norman Baker:** The recent spending review announced that the Government have made provision of over £400 million for measures to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle, including hybrid technologies. These measures include support for consumer incentives, development of recharging infrastructure, and a programme of research and development work.

#### **First Capital Connect: Franchises**

**Gavin Shaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which franchise obligations First Capital Connect was found to have contravened in September 2009. [37001]

**Mrs Villiers** [*holding answer 31 January 2011*]: As a matter of course, Department for Transport officials monitor compliance under the terms of the franchise

agreement to which First Capital Connect are party. In September 2009, First Capital Connect were found to be in contravention of its obligations in respect of its obligation to install ticket vending machines at Blackfriars station and its obligation in respect of its annual updated business plan.

**Gavin Shaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreed management provisions for franchise performance during each four-week period of First Capital Connect's rail franchise. [37008]

**Mrs Villiers** [*holding answer 31 January 2011*]: The Department for Transport places copies of the franchise agreements on its website:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/>

Schedule 13 of the National Rail franchise terms sets out the management information requirements for First Capital Connect along with the frequency of reporting. Schedule 11, Paragraph 4 sets out the agreed management provisions relating to each four weekly railway period.

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from customers of rail services operated under the First Capital Connect rail franchise. [37270]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department has received 51 items of correspondence from First Capital Connect customers since the beginning of December 2010. These have been either directly from customers of First Capital Connect or via their Members of Parliament.

**Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provisions of its franchise agreement First Capital Connect had contravened by September 2009. [37382]

**Mrs Villiers:** As a matter of course, Department for Transport officials monitor compliance under the terms of the franchise agreement to which First Capital Connect are party. In September 2009, First Capital Connect were found to be in contravention of its obligations in respect of its obligation to install ticket vending machines at Blackfriars station and its obligation in respect of its annual updated business plan.

#### **Heathrow Airport: Night Flying**

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what criteria will be used in the review of restrictions on night flights at Heathrow Airport after October 2012; [37553]

(2) what timetable he has set for the consultation on restrictions on night flights at Heathrow Airport after October 2012. [37556]

**Mrs Villiers:** An announcement about proposals for post-2012 arrangements will be made in due course. Any proposals will be subject to public consultation.

There have been strict controls on night flights at Heathrow for many years. This recognises that noise from aircraft at night is widely regarded as the least acceptable aspect of aircraft operations and a key concern

for local residents. In considering criteria for a new regime, it will be particularly important that very great care is taken to strike a fair balance between local disturbance and the economic benefits of night flights.

### HM Coastguard

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what risk assessments were carried out in respect of the proposals in his Department's document "Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century: Consultation on proposals for modernising the Coastguard 2010"; and if he will publish the assessments. [38943]

**Mike Penning:** HM Coastguard is an emergency service; sensitivity to operational risk is at the forefront of its approach.

The assessment of risk is an integral part of all policy development. In developing these proposals the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has at all stages assessed every element against the systemic risks to delivery of our national coastguard service.

A risk assessment covering the overall UK delivery operation will be published later this week.

### Southeastern: Fares

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Southeastern's rail fare increases for 2011 were approved by Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [37743]

**Mrs Villiers [holding answer 4 February 2011]:** The increases applied by Southeastern to its regulated rail fares in January 2011 complied with the relevant provisions of the franchise agreement, the terms of which were set in 2005 by the previous Government.

### Motor Vehicles: Insurance

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he (a) has had and (b) plans to have with the motor insurance industry on the (i) availability and (ii) cost of motor insurance to younger drivers. [37683]

**Mike Penning:** I am keen to explore developing new insurance products which offer discounts to those newly qualified drivers who have chosen enhanced training or who are happy to accept restrictions from their insurer (for example no night time driving or "pay as you go" initiatives). I have raised this with the insurance industry and I am seeking to arrange an early meeting to discuss the issues in detail.

### National Air Traffic Services

**Gavin Shaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue he expects to receive from the sale of the Government's remaining share of National Air Traffic Services. [37002]

**Mrs Villiers [holding answer 31 January 2011]:** No decision has yet been made as to whether to sell all, part or none of the Government's shareholding in NATS. It

was announced in the spending review (October 2010) that decisions on how and whether to proceed with a sale will be taken by Budget 2011.

We are currently in discussions with other shareholders over future ownership of NATS. If a decision is made to sell Government shares, the value will depend on the market conditions and decisions of other shareholders. No formal valuations have been prepared and indicative valuations can not be disclosed on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

### Railways: Weather

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that rail services are not disrupted in the event of severe weather; [36000]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that train operating companies are prepared for severe weather. [36001]

**Mrs Villiers:** Officials within the Department for Transport closely monitor the performance of train operating companies, including during periods of severe weather. When disruption takes place, train operating companies maintain regular contact with the Department. Train operators and Network Rail work together to plan for disruptive events, including bad weather. This includes discussions about which key services to prioritise and setting emergency timetables to be deployed if required.

### Sea Rescue: Closures

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he has undertaken an impact assessment of the proposed closure of the Coastguard centres in Stornoway, Shetland, Clyde or Forth. [38423]

**Mike Penning [holding answer 4 February 2011]:** Each aspect of the reforms detailed in the consultation document "Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century" issued on 16 December 2010 was reviewed in relation to their impact on our ability to provide UK search and rescue (SAR) co-ordination. It was concluded that location is not key factor.

The factors that were considered in determining the proposed location of coastguard centres are set out on pages 20-23 of the consultation document which is available in the Libraries of the House and on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency website:

[www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

### Transport

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to encourage active travel. [37718]

**Norman Baker [holding answer 1 February 2011]:** The Government are keen to promote sustainable travel initiatives, including cycling and walking. The recent White Paper ("Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon") includes specific measures to encourage active travel. We anticipate that the recently announced 'Local Sustainable Transport Fund' will support a wide range of measures, including packages that support the promotion of walking and cycling.



We have also allocated £11 million for Bikeability training in schools in 2011-12 and are committed to funding Bikeability training for the remainder of the Parliament. In addition, in 2011-12 we are funding £13 million for Links to Schools, Bike Club, Bike IT and walking to school initiatives.

#### Transport: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met the Minister for Transport in the Scottish Government; and what matters were discussed. [36354]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** I spoke with the Minister for Transport in the Scottish Government regularly during December 2010 as part of the Ministerial Resilience Committee to discuss the response to the severe weather. The last meeting was on 23 December 2010. My ministerial colleagues have also discussed a range of issues including high-speed rail and road safety with the Minister for Transport in the Scottish Government.

### EDUCATION

#### School Standards

18. **Stephen Metcalfe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of school standards in South Basildon and East Thurrock constituency. [38235]

**Mr Gibb:** In 2010, at key stage 2, 73% of pupils in South Basildon and East Thurrock achieved level 4 or above in English and maths combined, compared with 73% in England. In 2010, at key stage 4, 51.4% of pupils in maintained schools in South Basildon and East Thurrock achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A\* to C, including English and maths, compared with 55.2% in maintained schools in England as a whole.

#### Pupil Funding

19. **Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average level of funding per pupil in (a) Cambridgeshire and (b) England will be in 2011-12. [38236]

**Sarah Teather:** For 2011-12, Cambridgeshire will receive a guaranteed unit of funding per pupil of £4,643.51. The average guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for England will be £5,082.53.

We have kept the 2010-11 per pupil funding for each local authority in England and then added the per pupil level of grants that they received on top of this. The combined amount is the new guaranteed unit of funding for each local authority for 2011-12.

#### Building Schools for the Future

21. **Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the status of the Building Schools for the Future programme in Liverpool. [38240]

**Mr Gibb:** We have stopped the wasteful Building Schools for the Future programme, including 25 projects in Liverpool. Five Liverpool schools are continue to receive BSF capital investment. Capital has been allocated to two academy projects.

After the capital review reports in a few weeks time, we will establish the approach to capital spending on schools for April 2012 onwards. Maintained schools capital allocations for 2011-12 were announced on 13 December.

#### Teacher Protection

22. **Claire Perry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to protect teachers from false allegations made by pupils. [38241]

**Mr Gibb:** The Education Bill introduces reporting restrictions to prevent the publication of information that would identify teachers when allegations are made by or on behalf of a pupil until they are charged with a criminal offence. We will also revise guidance to highlight the fundamental importance of eradicating unnecessary delays in investigations, clarify that suspending teachers should never be an automatic response and emphasising the support that teachers are entitled to expect when facing such action.

#### Standards: Secondary Schools

23. **Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve standards of achievement in secondary schools. [38242]

**Mr Gibb:** The schools White Paper set out our plans to raise standards in education, including a real focus on raising standards of behaviour in our schools. We are also encouraging more high quality graduates into teaching, particularly in the shortage subjects of mathematics and science. We are reforming the National Curriculum and qualifications to ensure that children gain the knowledge they need to progress further. And we are promoting school autonomy, with more schools taking up the advantages of Academy status and the creation of more free schools.

#### Academies

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of his Department's capacity to oversee the governance of academies. [38234]

**Mr Gibb:** Academies are publicly funded independent schools and are required to ensure that they have sound governance procedures in place. We are satisfied that the Department has the capacity in place to oversee this.

#### Social Work: Children

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress is being made in reducing the burden of administration in social work with children. [38239]

**Tim Loughton:** The coalition Government are committed to freeing up more time for social workers to use their professional judgment to help children. This is an important focus of Professor Munro's review of child protection. Her interim report, published on 1 February 2011, proposes areas for potential reform to allow professionals to re-focus on the needs of the child rather than bureaucratic compliance. I welcome this and look forward to her final recommendations in April to which we will respond.

#### Booked Up Scheme

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children have received books from the Booked Up scheme in (a) England, (b) west midlands and (c) Dudley borough in each year since 2004. [33044]

**Sarah Teather [holding answer 12 January 2011]:** The number of children who received books from the Booked Up scheme is as follows:

|         | Booked Up scheme |               |                |
|---------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
|         | England          | West midlands | Dudley borough |
| 2004-06 | —                | —             | —              |
| 2007    | 636,330          | 66,893        | 3,975          |
| 2008    | 666,945          | 71,273        | 4,248          |
| 2009    | 660,603          | 68,580        | 4,138          |
| 2010    | 655,630          | 67,722        | 4,156          |

<sup>1</sup> No packs given before 2007

#### Bookstart Scheme

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children have received books from the Bookstart scheme in (a) England, (b) west midlands and (c) Dudley borough in each year since 2004. [33043]

**Sarah Teather [holding answer 12 January 2011]:** The number of children who have received books from the Bookstart scheme are as follows:

|      | Bookstart |               |                |
|------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
|      | England   | West Midlands | Dudley borough |
| 2004 | 487,200   | 65,136        | 3,610          |
| 2005 | 608,000   | 63,079        | 7,656          |
| 2006 | 1,084,504 | 189,760       | 10,022         |
| 2007 | 1,710,802 | 192,297       | 10,600         |
| 2008 | 1,725,000 | 198,239       | 10,580         |
| 2009 | 1,788,887 | 197,058       | 11,364         |
| 2010 | 1,817,425 | 201,810       | 10,656         |

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 513W, on the Bookstart programme: finance, how much funding he has allocated to Bookstart for 2011-12. [36559]

**Sarah Teather:** Following the joint public statement issued with Booktrust on 26 December, the Department for Education has been working with Booktrust on developing a new book gifting programme. A decision will be made soon on the funding that will be allocated to Bookstart for the 2011-12 financial year.

#### Booktime Scheme

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children have received books from the Booktime scheme in (a) England, (b) west midlands and (c) Dudley borough in each year since 2007. [33042]

**Sarah Teather [holding answer 12 January 2011]:** The number of children who have received books from the Booktime scheme are given as follows:

|      | Booktime |               |                |
|------|----------|---------------|----------------|
|      | England  | West Midlands | Dudley borough |
| 2007 | 663,862  | 62,386        | 3,699          |
| 2008 | 674,177  | 71,824        | 4,077          |
| 2009 | 666,792  | 72,223        | 4,050          |
| 2010 | 670,225  | 70,954        | 4,043          |

#### CAFCASS: Finance

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the outturn budget for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in England (a) was in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 and (b) is expected to be for 2011-12. [33796]

**Tim Loughton:** The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service's (CAFCASS's) funded expenditure for each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10 was:

|         | Expenditure (£ million) |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 2007-08 | 108.550                 |
| 2008-09 | 120.627                 |
| 2009-10 | 132.449                 |

These figures comprise CAFCASS's grant in aid funding from the Department and additional funding for specific activities. In this spending review period (2008-11), this additional funding has been for Contact Point and Family Contact Services.

CAFCASS's allocated programme resource budget for 2010-11 is £140.7 million, including a one-off allocation of £10 million for service improvement and funding for Contact Point and Family Contact Services. CAFCASS's budget for 2011-12 has not yet been finalised.

#### Departmental Manpower

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials his Department has appointed on a fixed-term contract since 7 May 2010. [16788]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education was established on 12 May 2010. The Department has appointed 14 staff on fixed-term contracts since that time.

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the (a) names and (b) salaries are of each senior civil servant who has (i) joined, (ii) moved posts within and (iii) left his Department since May 2010. [35370]

**Tim Loughton [holding answer 21 January 2011]:** Information for Department's senior civil service (SCS) since May 2010 is set out in the following tables:

## SCS joiners

| Name (directorates only for individuals in the SCS below director level) | Gross basic salary |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Simon Parkes                                                             | £135,000-£139,999  |
| David Hawker                                                             | n/a                |
| Infrastructure and Funding                                               | £55,000-£59,999    |
| Education Standards                                                      | £55,000-£59,999    |
| Private Office                                                           | £80,000-£84,999    |
| Finance and Corporate Services                                           | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Education Standards                                                      | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Children, Young People and Families                                      | £80,000-£84,999    |
| Children, Young People and Families                                      | £80,000-£84,999    |
| Infrastructure and Funding                                               | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Education Standards                                                      | £70,000-£74,999    |
| Finance and Corporate Services                                           | £60,000-£64,999    |

<sup>1</sup> Seconded from the Welsh Assembly.

## SCS transfers within the Department

| Name (directorates only for individuals in the SCS below director level) | Gross basic salary |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mela Watts                                                               | £80,000-£84,999    |
| Andrew McCully                                                           | £105,000-£109,999  |
| Jon Coles                                                                | £135,000-£139,000  |
| David Hawker                                                             | n/a                |
| Education Standards                                                      | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Infrastructure and Funding                                               | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Education Standards                                                      | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Finance and Corporate Services                                           | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Finance and Corporate Services                                           | £85,000-£89,999    |
| Children, Young People and Families                                      | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Finance and Corporate Services                                           | £80,000-£84,999    |
| Infrastructure and Funding                                               | £70,000-£74,999    |
| Infrastructure and Funding                                               | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Education Standards                                                      | £70,000-£74,999    |
| Education Standards                                                      | £70,000-£74,999    |
| Infrastructure and Funding                                               | £75,000-£79,999    |
| Children, Young People and Families                                      | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Children, Young People and Families                                      | £100,000-£104,999  |

<sup>1</sup> Seconded from the Welsh Assembly.

## SCS leavers

| Name (directorates only for individuals in the SCS below director level) | Gross basic salary |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Hearty                                                           | £105,000-£109,000  |
| Ian Taylor                                                               | £130,000-£134,999  |
| Finance and Corporate Services                                           | £80,000-£84,999    |
| Schools                                                                  | £70,000-£74,999    |
| Young People                                                             | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Corporate Services                                                       | £90,000-£94,999    |
| Schools                                                                  | £80,000-£84,999    |
| Young People                                                             | £65,000-£69,999    |
| Young People                                                             | £60,000-£64,999    |

## Education Maintenance Allowance

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of the operation of the education maintenance allowance on the number of young people from deprived backgrounds undertaking further education. [32998]

**Mr Gibb:** Department for Education analysis, based on the evidence from evaluation of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) pilots which ran from 1999 to 2004 in England, indicated that:

around 18,000 young people participated in education at 16 in 2004/05 because of EMA—8% of the total number of 16 year old EMA recipients; and

around 16,000 young people participated at 17 in 2005/06 because of EMA—9% of the total number of EMA recipients.

These findings support and are consistent with the findings from more recent research which suggests that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after 16 even if they had not received EMA. We are replacing EMA with an enhanced learner support fund.

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to announce the funding for the replacement to education maintenance allowance (EMA); and what alternatives to EMA he is considering. [34253]

**Mr Gibb [holding answer 17 January 2011]:** We plan to announce the allocations for the new funds in early spring.

We are replacing EMA with an enhanced learner support fund. We will take account of the views of schools, colleges and training organisations, and the advice of the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), as Advocate for Access to Education, regarding arrangements for the new fund.

## Family Rights Group

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the allocation of funding by his Department to the Family Rights Group Kinship helpline in the next three years. [33685]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department opened a new procurement process on 6 December 2010 to fund family support telephone helplines and online services from April 2011. One of the aims of the family services procurement is to support children and young people in England through supporting their parents and families, with a particular focus on early intervention support for the most disadvantaged parents and families. The Family Rights Group was eligible to submit an application under this process.

For commercial reasons, I cannot comment on any applications we have received from individual organisations until the outcome of the procurement process has been completed. I will write to the hon. Member to let him know the outcome once the procurement process is completed.

## Languages: Classroom Assistants

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the British Council's language teaching assistantship scheme. [36513]

**Mr Gibb [holding answer 27 January 2011]:** The language assistants programme, which is managed for the Department by the British Council, will continue. The programme supports departmental and Government priorities by exposing pupils in our schools to mother-tongue speakers of other languages through the intake of foreign language assistants; and provides an opportunity for undergraduates from our universities to immerse themselves in a foreign language while working as an English language assistant in a school abroad.



### Mature Students

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on maintaining present levels of access for mature students to higher education courses. [38615]

**Mr Willetts:** I have been asked to reply.

Access to higher education is based on ability not age. Latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show that almost two thirds of the student population are mature students. This Government are introducing reforms to the system of higher education (HE) funding aimed at producing a more sustainable environment to support access for those who can most benefit from all ages and backgrounds. We will provide up-front funding for tuition costs to those eligible first-time undergraduates who can secure a university place—both young people and mature students. For the first time, we are making loans available to eligible part-time students, living in England. Our National Scholarship Programme will be open to disadvantaged students with potential, irrespective of age.

### Missing Persons: Children

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to take steps to replace national indicator 71 on missing children and adults. [38351]

**Tim Loughton:** Final decisions are yet to be made on future data collections.

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities have in place those procedures and protocols on the actions to be taken when children in care go missing or run away recommended in the statutory guidance published in July 2009. [38352]

**Tim Loughton:** This information is not collected centrally. However, all local authorities should be following statutory guidance.

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the number of return interviews with children who had gone missing which were carried out in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [38353]

**Tim Loughton:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to improve the collection of national data on children who run away or go missing; and if he will make a statement. [38354]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department collects information on the number of looked-after children absent for more than 24 hours from their agreed placement. However, it is the responsibility of local authorities to safeguard and promote the well-being of children in their care, and they will hold more detailed information on each child who has gone missing from their care. They are expected to use this to inform their processes and

procedures, and the training of staff and carers, to minimise the risk of children going missing from local placements.

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what procedures are in place in his Department to monitor the implementation by local authorities of the statutory guidance of July 2009 on children who run away or go missing from their home or care; and if he will make a statement. [38355]

**Tim Loughton:** All local authorities should follow statutory guidance. The Department does not propose to monitor implementation. "Statutory Guidance on Children who Run Away and Go Missing from Home or Care" requires local authorities to collect information about missing from care incidents. Local Runaway and Missing from Home and Care protocols set out the arrangements for sharing this information with the police to make sure that action is taken to locate the child and minimise the likelihood of their going missing in future. Local authorities should make regular reports to council members with responsibility for "corporate parenting" on patterns of children going missing from care.

### Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will rank all secondary schools within each local authority area according to the proportion of children eligible for free school meals in January 2010 and indicate the category of school in each such case. [35862]

**Mr Gibb** [holding answer 24 January 2011]: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

This information includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

### Schools: Admissions

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what account of birth rates is taken in planning pupil placing; [31583]

(2) what account he takes of existing trends in pupil numbers when determining future projections of pupil numbers in primary and secondary schools in the London borough of Newham. [31585]

**Mr Gibb:** Planning for future provision of school places is the statutory responsibility of local authorities. Ministers play no role in deciding future primary and secondary school provision in individual authorities. It is for each local authority to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population and to review the position regularly.

As part of their strategic responsibility for school provision, local authorities prepare their own pupil number forecasts based on their knowledge of local circumstances. In producing these forecasts, local authorities are best placed to determine which local factors should be taken into account and the sources of information

they use, for example local birth rate information, existing trends in pupil numbers, net migration and housing developments.

#### Schools: Finance

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has reached a decision on funding for schools in York Outer constituency for the period of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [25800]

**Mr Gibb:** On 13 December, the Department announced the school funding allocations for 2011-12. We have protected school funding in the system at flat cash per pupil, before adding the pupil premium. Flat cash per pupil means that as pupil numbers go up, the overall budget goes up in line. It is now for local authorities to work with their schools forum to produce the 2011-12 budgets for their individual maintained schools.

The funding levels for schools in York and other authorities from 2012-13 and beyond will be subject to review. As we set out in the Schools White Paper—"The Importance of Teaching"—we will consult this spring on developing and introducing a clear, transparent and fairer national funding formula based on the needs of pupils.

#### Schools: Sports

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's funding settlement for the comprehensive spending review period on expenditure on new school sports equipment. [33267]

**Tim Loughton:** The Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", sets out the Government's approach to school funding. We believe that the school funding system needs radical reform to make it more transparent, fairer and progressive. We have protected the schools budget in the recent spending review, at a time when cutting the budget deficit is an urgent national priority. It is for schools to decide what to spend on sports equipment, or on equipment for other areas of the curriculum.

#### Students: Finance

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to ring-fence within school and college budgets their allocation of proposed enhanced discretionary learner support funds. [34211]

**Mr Gibb:** Under current arrangements discretionary learner support funds are allocated as a discrete budget which can be used only for that purpose. We expect that the enhanced learner support fund will build on these arrangements. We are working with schools, colleges and other stakeholders as we finalise the details of how the enhanced fund will operate. That work will also be informed by the work of the Government's Advocate for Access to Education, the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes).

## TREASURY

### Carbon Reduction Commitment

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is considering any changes to the carbon reduction commitment beyond those announced in the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [38475]

**Justine Greening:** The Government are committed to simplifying the carbon reduction commitment (CRC) energy efficiency scheme. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) published a consultation paper on a first tranche of simplifications to the CRC last year which included delaying the start of the second phase and removing the requirement to register on information declarers. As previously announced it is DECC's intention to deliver further simplification for the second phase of the CRC and detailed options are being discussed with CRC participants. Decisions about allowance sales and price are a matter for the Chancellor.

### Corporation Tax

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have had outstanding tax liability of more than £100 million forgiven by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value was of the liability forgiven by HMRC in each year. [38695]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC does not "forgive" tax. Where a company is unable to meet its tax liabilities HMRC will seek arrangements to obtain the tax. Tax will only be written off when it is clearly not recoverable.

In seeking to determine tax liabilities HMRC will engage with taxpayers and their advisors to resolve disputes of fact and/or law. Such discussions can be complex and may involve grey areas within the tax system. If HMRC is unable to agree an appropriate settlement it will look to litigation or some form of arbitration.

Under its normal rules of confidentiality HMRC cannot reveal details of individual settlements.

### Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on payment of compensation to Equitable Life trapped annuitants. [38112]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have announced that they will cover the full cost of losses to eligible with-profits annuitants. This will be paid through ongoing regular payments.

The Treasury is in the process of preparing a detailed scheme design document that sets out the practical and delivery implications of the scheme. I will make this available for parliamentary scrutiny in the spring. This will allow final preparations for payments to be made. The Government's ambition is to start making payments in the middle of 2011.

### EU Budget: Contributions

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the average daily net financial contribution of the UK to the EU in the latest period for which figures are available. [38745]

**Justine Greening:** The latest figures available on the UK's gross and net contributions in sterling were included in the Table 1.6 of the Public Finances Supplementary Data to the Office for Budget Responsibility's autumn forecast, published on 29 November and available on the OBR website.

The last outturn data on UK's 'Net contribution to the EU budget' (which only takes into account public sector receipts from the EU) refers to the UK budgetary year 2009-10, and is £4.7 billion. This corresponds to a daily net contribution of around £12.9 million.

### Excise Duties: Biofuels

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the renewable transport fuel industry of the level of duty for biodiesel produced from used cooking oil. [37887]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend (Norman Baker), on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 509W, to the hon. Member for Congleton (Fiona Bruce). The Government routinely discusses tax matters with industry stakeholders and the Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to change the 3% taxation rate on diesel fuel. [38274]

**Justine Greening:** The company car tax calculation for diesel powered cars includes a 3% supplement for all but early adopters of Euro 4 clean air emissions technology. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

### Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of respondents to his Department's consultation on a gross profits tax on gaming machines were (a) supportive of and (b) opposed to the proposal. [38511]

**Justine Greening:** The Government's response to the consultation contains further information on the responses received, and can be found online at:

[http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult\\_gamingmachinestax\\_response.pdf](http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_gamingmachinestax_response.pdf)

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many gambling companies have requested meetings with Ministers and officials of his Department to discuss

the implications of a gross profits tax on gaming machines since the publication of the proposal; and how many such meetings there have been. [38512]

**Justine Greening:** Treasury Ministers and officials meet representatives from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The Treasury publishes a list of ministerial meetings with external organisations, available at:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister\\_hospitality.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm)

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the publication in January 2011 of draft legislation on the imposition of a machine games duty is consistent with his Department's commitment in "Tax Policy Making: Draft Tax Consultation Framework", 9 December 2010, Chapter 2, paragraph 6, to (a) publish draft tax legislation at least three months before they are laid before Parliament and (b) provide at least eight weeks for comment on draft tax legislation before it is laid before Parliament. [38513]

**Justine Greening:** The Government's current plan for taking forward machine games duty is to consult on draft legislation by early summer, with the intention of legislating in Finance Bill 2012.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what impact assessments have been conducted to analyse the potential effect of a machine games duty on the industry by (a) his Department and (b) external consultants; and what assessment has been made of the effect of these proposals on (i) adult amusement centres; (ii) coastal town economies and (iii) the wider tourism industry. [38514]

**Justine Greening:** The Government are seeking further input from industry on machine games duty, and it is intended that a formal consultation will be held by early summer.

### Gaming Machines

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on achieving fiscal neutrality with respect to machines in betting shops. [38154]

**Justine Greening:** Fiscal neutrality is an important principle, requiring that supplies of similar goods or services be treated in the same way for VAT purposes to avoid any distortion of competition.

The VAT treatment in respect of certain gaming machines is currently subject to legal challenge. The Court of Appeal and the Upper Tribunal have both made references to the European Court of Justice seeking advice on the interpretation and application of the fiscal neutrality principle in these specific circumstances.

We await the rulings from the European Court of Justice.



### Income Tax: Bradford

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Bradford East constituency will no longer pay income tax as a result of the decision to increase the personal allowance by £1,000. [38937]

**Mr Gauke:** The number of persons taken out of income tax as a result of the £1,000 increase in the personal allowance in 2011-12 in the U.K. is estimated to be 880,000.

This estimate is based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 in line with the June 2010 Budget assumptions.

It not possible to produce reliable estimates for parliamentary constituencies due to small sample sizes at these levels of geography.

### Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people paid income tax at the higher rate in each year since 1988. [38094]

**Mr Gauke:** Estimates for the number of higher rate taxpayers for 1990-91 onwards are shown in Table 2.1 'Number of individual income taxpayers' which can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income\\_tax/table2-1.xls](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-1.xls)

Estimates for earlier years are shown in table 2.1a 'Number of taxpayers and income tax liabilities' which can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income\\_tax/table2-1a.xls](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-1a.xls)

These estimates are based on the annual Survey of Personal Incomes. Latest available survey data are for 2007-08, with projections for 2008-09 to 2010-11 based on economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's autumn forecast 2010.

### Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bristol East of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 387W, on Revenue and Customs: telephone services, when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to complete its review of its telephone numbering strategy. [38083]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC initially planned to conclude its review of its telephone numbering strategy by 31 March 2011. Since the review commenced, Ofcom has announced a consultation entitled "Simplifying Non-Geographic Numbers (Improving consumer confidence in 03, 08, 09, 118 and other non-geographic numbers)". The findings from the Ofcom consultation are due in spring 2011 and HMRC will conclude its review once it has considered the findings of the consultation.

### Technology: Derby

**Margaret Beckett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects of his economic and fiscal policies on the high technology manufacturing

sector in the city of Derby; and if he will make a statement. [37296]

**Justine Greening:** The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing the official economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR's Budget forecast does not include a sub-national forecast.

The Treasury is leading a Growth Review, jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, in order to create the conditions for economic growth and to improve the dynamism of the UK business environment. This will cover issues of importance to technology-based companies including access to finance, better regulation and competition. In its first phase, the review is focusing on a number of sectors with a high technology content including advanced manufacturing, business and professional services, digital and creative industries, and health care and life sciences. A first report will be made by Budget 2011.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Audit Commission: Conferences

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose was of the payment of £4,981 by the Audit Commission to Thomas Telford Ltd in May 2010; how many officials attended the conference to which the payment related; and for what reason. [37536]

**Robert Neill:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

*Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 7 February 2011:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The purpose of the payment of £4,981 to Thomas Telford Ltd was for the Audit Commission's 6th Annual Lecture that took place in July 2010.

This event is attended by MPs, Directors from government agencies, Chief Executives of local authorities and health authorities, our contract partners, and trade and professional associations. It provides an opportunity for the Commission to stimulate and promote discussion on topics of interest to the public sector; and to those with an interest in the organisation's work. Previous speakers have included Lord Heseltine and Sir Gus O'Donnell. The guest speaker on this occasion was Professor Anthony King.

One hundred and seventeen people attended this event. Some who indicated that they would attend did not do so.

In July 2010, the Commission decided not to hold any further Annual Lecture events.

### Audit Commission: Expenditure

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the (a) purpose and (b) cost was of the sundry debtor expenditure incurred by the Audit Commission in September 2010 relating to (i) Brook Green UK, (ii) Dish, (iii) Event Ensembles, (iv) Historic Royal Palaces Enterprises, (v) jwflowers.com and (vi) Leiths At the Centre. [37539]

**Robert Neill:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend

direct. However, I would comment that this illustrates how transparency can highlight wasteful spending. Particularly at a time when the public finances are in such a poor state, it is simply unacceptable for a public body—indeed a spending watchdog—to be using taxpayers' money (intended to be spent on promoting auditing best practice) to subsidise a string quartet and extravagant flower displays.

*Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 7 February 2011:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The purpose of the sundry debtor expenditure incurred by the Audit Commission in September 2010 was for the Eurorai Congress held in October 2010.

Eurorai is a network of over 70 regional audit bodies in Europe that has been in place for nearly 20 years. In 2007, we agreed that we would act as the host and, at the time our abolition was announced, plans had been underway to organise the congress for three years.

Following the Secretary of State's abolition announcement on 13 August 2010, we considered our position and, after discussion with Department for Communities and Local Government officials, we agreed to go ahead with the congress and fulfil our commitment.

The congress was fully funded by Eurorai, and the dinner by a contribution from the Audit Commission and partner agencies, including from the accountancy profession and some private sector audit firms.

The Audit Commission's contribution to the dinner was £5,000 and is not associated with any particular item of expenditure. All other expenses have been refunded by Eurorai or the partner agencies.

Details of the costs are:

| Supplier               | Service               | Cost (£)  |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Brook Green UK         | Travel—congress       | 3,795.75  |
| Dish                   | Catering—dinner       | 14,060.00 |
| Event Ensembles        | String quartet—dinner | 550.00    |
| Historic Royal Palaces | Banqueting House      | 8,050.00  |
| Enterprise Ltd.        | hire—dinner           |           |
| jwflores.com Ltd.      | Flowers—dinner        | 1,280.00  |
| Leith's At The Centre  | Catering—congress     | 6,285.90  |

Faithwise Ltd

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 304W, on Faithwise Ltd: contracts, how much his Department has paid to Faithwise Ltd. since the beginning of the original contract. [38382]

**Robert Neill [holding answer 4 February 2011]:** The Department has paid £368,666.14 inclusive of VAT to Faithwise since the beginning of the contract on 1 January 2007.

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 304W, on Faithwise Ltd: contracts, if he will undertake a value for money assessment of the Faithwise consultancy contract. [38383]

**Robert Neill [holding answer 4 February 2011]:** The Faithwise contract has been assessed for value for money on the basis of cost. We have terminated the contract.

#### Local Government Association

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions he has met representatives of the Local Government Association since May 2010. [38608]

**Robert Neill:** The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and his ministerial team have met representatives of the Local Government Association 47 times.

#### Local Government Finance

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of unspecified savings he considers it acceptable for local councils to include when setting their budgets. [38876]

**Robert Neill:** There are many factors to be considered in setting budgets and these factors are best assessed at the local level. Local authorities are responsible for their own finances, and spending and budgeting decisions are for individual councils to make. Local authorities are required to set their budgets in accordance with their legal and fiduciary responsibilities.

#### Local Government: Powers

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to assess the extent to which the Government's localism agenda raises accountability issues; and if he will make a statement. [37760]

**Greg Clark [holding answer 2 February 2011]:** The Government are committed to strengthening local democratic accountability for local services and reversing the build up of bureaucratic central burdens that in recent years have increasingly prevented local leaders from acting in the best interests of their communities. Increasing accountability goes hand in hand with localism. That is why the Government are, for example:

Replacing the central imposition of council tax caps and instead giving local people the right to veto excessive increases in a referendum;

Providing for directly elected mayors in 12 English cities, subject to approval in a referendum, and introducing directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners to replace unelected police authorities;

Requesting that local authorities publish every item of expenditure over £500, so local residents can more easily hold them to account for their use of taxpayers money.

#### Localism

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of the term localism his Department uses. [38840]

**Greg Clark:** This Government have been clear that they want to see a radical redistribution of power away from central Government to local communities and people. In December I published "Decentralisation and

the Localism Bill: an essential guide" which sets out the six essential actions required to deliver decentralisation down through every level of government to every citizen.

#### London Assembly

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what costs his Department has incurred in respect of the provision of information to the electorate on the (a) operation and (b) voting system for the London Assembly since the creation of the Assembly; and if he will make a statement. [38151]

**Robert Neill:** It is for the Mayor and London Assembly to determine how much funding from the Greater London authority's budget should be allocated for the provision of information to the London electorate about the voting system and operation of the Assembly. My Department provides a contribution to the Authority's budget through a block grant, the General Greater London authority grant, but cannot specify how this funding is spent; the rest of the budget is funded by the Authority's council tax precept.

#### Mobile Homes

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to introduce a fit and proper person test for mobile home owners; and if he will make a statement. [37930]

**Grant Shapps:** Although I have no plans to introduce a fit and proper test for mobile home owners at present; I do intend shortly announce a series of other measures that I have in mind to better protect mobile home occupiers.

#### Parish Councils: Elections

**Jack Dromey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of elections to parish councils that were uncontested in each year since 1991. [38580]

**Robert Neill:** We have made no such estimates.

#### Social Rented Housing: Property Transfer

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which registered social landlords have notified the Tenant Services Authority of an intention to dispose of properties (a) in and (b) after 2011-12; and how many properties and what proportion of housing stock is to be disposed of in each case. [38013]

**Grant Shapps:** Private registered providers (previously known as 'registered social landlords') of social housing must apply for consent from the social housing regulator, the Tenant Services Authority, to dispose of property. The Tenant Services Authority collects data through its regulatory statistical return for disposals in previous years. However there is no requirement for providers to inform the Tenant Services Authority in advance of their intention to dispose at some point in the future.

#### Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions he has met representatives of the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities since May 2010. [38616]

**Robert Neill:** The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and members of the ministerial team have met representatives of the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities three times.

### WORK AND PENSIONS

#### Atos Origin

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date his Department's contract with Atos Origin is due for renewal. [37665]

**Chris Grayling:** The DWP Medical Services contract was awarded to Atos Healthcare, a division of Atos Origin, in 2005 for a period of seven years, with the option to extend for a further three and then for a further two. In 2009, the Department negotiated an extension to the contract to 31 August 2015 in order to allow for the completion of incapacity benefit (IB) to ESA migration.

#### Cold Weather Payments: Vale of Glamorgan

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on cold weather payments, what temperatures were recorded at St Athan Weather Station between 17 December and 23 December 2009. [33067]

**Steve Webb:** Meteorological (Met) Office data for the St Athan weather station for recorded temperatures between 17 December and 23 December 2009 was as follows:

| Date             | Temperature (°C)       |                        |                             |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                  | Daily max <sup>1</sup> | Daily min <sup>1</sup> | Mean daily NCM <sup>1</sup> |
| 17 December 2009 | 5.5                    | 1.7                    | 3.6                         |
| 18 December 2009 | 2.1                    | -1.3                   | 0.4                         |
| 19 December 2009 | 5.4                    | -4.6                   | 0.4                         |
| 20 December 2009 | 4.1                    | -3.2                   | 0.4                         |
| 21 December 2009 | 2.6                    | -0.8                   | 0.9                         |
| 22 December 2009 | 5.8                    | -4.0                   | 0.9                         |



| Date             | Daily max <sup>1</sup> | Temperature (°C)       |  | Mean daily NCM <sup>1</sup> |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
|                  |                        | Daily min <sup>1</sup> |  |                             |
| 23 December 2009 | 5.0                    | -3.5                   |  | 0.8                         |

<sup>1</sup> 0900-0900.

### Council Tax Benefits

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his estimates of marginal rates of withdrawal in the welfare reform White Paper take account of payments of council tax benefit. [38848]

**Steve Webb:** All analysis presented to date includes the 20% council tax benefit taper when looking at marginal deduction rates in the current tax and benefit system. It also includes council tax support within the universal credit and is subject to the single overall taper of 65% when calculating marginal deduction rates under universal credit.

The Government's announcement that they would give local authorities more say on the administration of council tax benefit will have implications for universal credit. As stated in the recent White Paper, "Universal Credit: Welfare That Works", the Government will work closely with local government and the devolved Administrations to develop the details of the proposal and to ensure that this reform does not undermine the positive impact of universal credit on work incentives.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in receipt of council tax benefit are in employment; [38849]

(2) what the average weekly council tax benefit payment was to (a) claimants of working age and (b) pensioners in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available; [38850]

(3) what the average weekly council tax benefit payment to recipients in work was in the latest period for which figures are available; [38888]

(4) how many persons in receipt of council tax benefit are in employment in each local authority area; [38889]

(5) what the average weekly council tax benefit payment was for claimants in work in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [38872]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested regarding the economic status of council tax benefit (CTB) recipients is not available.

A copy of the available information has been placed in the Library.

#### Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Average awards are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.

3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems.

It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.

The data are available monthly from November 2008 and October 2010 is the latest available.

4. Data from SHBE incorporate the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.

5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

6. People claiming council tax benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. People receiving passported benefits who are working part-time cannot be identified.

7. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:

(a) the recipient if they are single, or

(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple

8. Those local authorities shown in bold relate to an earlier or later month because of missing or incomplete data.

Numbers differ slightly due to recipients movements between LAs.

9. Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp>

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

### Departmental Marketing

**Conor Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37234]

**Chris Grayling:** Nothing has been spent by DWP on Department branded drinks coasters in the current financial year (2010-11) and £1,468.49 was spent in 2009-10.

### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36196]

**Chris Grayling:** A total of 50 contracts have been awarded by single tender over the period from 12 May 2010 to present date. The majority are science research and technical support requirements for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and research contracts.

The total number of single tender contracts awarded with an anticipated value above EU public procurement thresholds (taken as £101,000 or €393,000) is 12.

The information has been placed in the Library comprising details of all single tender contracts (50) as specifically requested, and identifying 12 of those contracts as above the relevant threshold.

### Departmental Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37391]

**Chris Grayling:** The Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/875) were revoked by the Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) (Revocation) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1906)

The following regulations were revoked by the Equality Act 2010 (Disability) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2128):

The Disability Discrimination (Meaning of Disability) Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/1455)

The Disability Discrimination (Providers of Services) (Adjustment of Premises) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/3253)

The Disability Discrimination (Blind and Partially Sighted Persons) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/712)

The Disability Discrimination (Employment Field) (Leasehold Premises) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/153)

The Disability Discrimination (Educational Institutions) (Alteration of Leasehold Premises) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/1070)

The Disability Discrimination (Service Providers and Public Authorities Carrying Out Functions) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/2901)

The Disability Discrimination (Private Clubs etc) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3258)

The Disability Discrimination (Premises) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/887).

The Vaccine Damage Payment (Specified Disease) Order (S.I. 2009/2516) was revoked by the Vaccine Damage Payments (Specified Disease) (Revocation and Savings) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1988).

The Transfer of State Pensions and Benefits Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR (NI) 2007/286) were revoked by the Transfer of State Pensions and Benefits (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1825).

### Disability Living Allowance: Scotland

**Mr Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of disability living allowance and aged between 25 and 35 years are resident in (a) Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and (b) Dumfries and Galloway constituency; and how many of these are also in receipt of (i) housing benefit and (ii) local housing allowance. [31535]

**Maria Miller:** The number of people in receipt of disability living allowance and aged between 25 and 35 years (inclusive) resident in (a) Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and (b) Dumfries and Galloway constituency are provided in the following table.

The numbers also in receipt of (i) housing benefit and (ii) local housing allowance are not available. Information is available on the number of housing benefit claimants in receipt of a passporting benefit. However because disability living allowance is not a housing benefit passporting benefit the number of DLA claimants also receiving housing benefit is not available.

|                                                  | All    | Number                                     |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
|                                                  |        | Age of claimant<br>25 to 35<br>(inclusive) | Other |
| Dumfries and Galloway local authority            | 10,130 | 590                                        | 9,540 |
| Dumfries and Galloway parliamentary constituency | 6,740  | 430                                        | 6,310 |

#### Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

#### Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, May 2010

### Employment and Support Allowance: Fife

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of employment and support allowance in Fife local authority area have been judged fit for work since May 2008; how many appeals against such determinations were initiated; and how many such appeals were granted. [37452]

**Chris Grayling:** Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. Eligibility for ESA is determined by the Work Capability Assessment (WCA).

Between October 2008 and May 2010 (the latest data available), 3,220 or 46% of people who made an application for ESA in the Fife local authority area were found fit for work at the initial WCA.

There have been 890 appeals concluded from people who started their claim for ESA in Fife between October 2008 and November 2009 (the latest data available). These are cases that have been found fit for work at initial WCA, have appealed this decision and had their appeal heard by the Tribunals Service. Of those appeals that have been heard, 390 found in favour of the appellant, meaning their entitlement to ESA was reinstated.

Information on the number of appeals that have been initiated but not yet concluded is not available.

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely there are more appeals that have not yet been heard, so the number of appeals is likely to change as more up to date information becomes available. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on ESA and the WCA. The latest report was published in January 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa\\_wca/index.php?page=esa\\_wca\\_arc](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc)

### Employment and Support Allowance: Scotland

**Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 432W, on employment

and support allowance: Scotland, what proportion of the 37 per cent. of claimants for employment and support allowance that terminated their claims before their assessment was completed (a) entered employment, (b) claimed jobseeker's allowance and (c) claimed income support between October 2008 and February 2010.

[37355]

**Chris Grayling:** Of people claiming employment support allowance (ESA) in Scotland who ended their claim between October 2008 and February 2010 before their work capability assessment (WCA) was complete, administrative data shows that:

31% claimed jobseeker's allowance; and

4% claimed income support.

Note that for 43% of leavers the destination is not known. Only destinations which occur within six weeks of the end of the ESA claim are recorded. These statistics are based on combining information on people claiming ESA who ended their claim before completing assessment with information on the destination of people leaving benefit.

Statistics on the number of people leaving ESA and going into work are not available from administrative data. However a recent survey on ESA ("Employment and Support Allowance: Findings from a face-to-face survey of customers") recorded that around 41% of participants who left ESA before completing assessment had then moved into some form of employment. This would account for a substantial proportion of the 43% of leavers with an unknown destination. See section 5.3, page 70 onwards of the survey for further details:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep707.pdf>

#### Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment

**Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS, on incapacity benefit reassessment, how many of the incapacity benefit customers reassessed in the trials taking place in Aberdeen and Burnley were (a) placed in the employment and support allowance (ESA) support group, (b) placed in the work-related activity group and (c) found ineligible for ESA; and how many of those found ineligible for ESA have subsequently made a claim for jobseeker's allowance.

[37342]

**Chris Grayling:** The IB re-assessment trials have been running in Aberdeen and Burnley since October 2010. In total 1,700 people will go through the IB reassessment process in these areas.

As the trials have not yet concluded, we do not have complete information on the results of the work capability assessments that have been carried out nor their subsequent destinations. Prior to national reassessment, the Department will be examining the available information on outcomes of work capability assessments conducted as part of the trial.

The Department is also conducting research into the views and experiences of customers and staff involved in trial IB reassessment. A report of this will be published in the DWP research report series in spring 2011.

#### Employment: Scotland

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in (a) Fife local authority area and (b) Scotland have been placed into employment as a result of funding from the Future Jobs Fund in each year since the scheme's inception.

[37450]

**Chris Grayling:** The most recent Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 19 January 2011 and are available here:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/ypg/ypg\\_jan2011.pdf](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/ypg/ypg_jan2011.pdf)

Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which covers the period from October 2009 to the end of October 2010. They show that there were 7,740 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in Scotland. Of which 430 were in the Fife local authority area.

#### Housing Benefit: Disability Living Allowance

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effects of his proposed cap on the level of household benefits on the number of applications for disability living allowance.

[36431]

**Maria Miller:** Households which include a member who is receiving disability living allowance will be exempt from the impacts of the benefit cap. This is in acknowledgement that DLA recipients face additional costs of every day living.

Claims for disability living allowance will continue to be determined by the assessment process.

We are unable to predict the effects of the benefit cap on the number of applications for disability living allowance.

On 6 December we launched a consultation on the reform of disability living allowance with the key proposal of a new benefit, to be known as personal independence payment, which will be introduced from 2013. The consultation proposed that personal independence payment should be subject to a new, more objective assessment process enabling us to more accurately and consistently assess individuals to determine who will benefit most from additional support.

#### Offshore Industry: Safety

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 300W, on methane: natural gas, whether the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations 1996 cover (a) onshore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane and (b) hydraulic fracturing.

[37471]

**Chris Grayling:** HSE has regulatory responsibility for the safety of these activities and so as Minister responsible for Health and Safety I am providing a response to this question. I can confirm that well construction and well integrity activities associated with onshore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane, and hydraulic fracturing, are within scope of the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations 1996.



**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 300W, on methane: natural gas, what legislative and regulatory provisions refer specifically to (a) onshore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane and (b) hydraulic fracturing; and whether such provisions have been reviewed and amended in the last two years. [37472]

**Chris Grayling:** HSE has regulatory responsibility for the safety of these activities and so as Minister responsible for Health and Safety I am providing a response to this question. I can confirm that no health and safety legislation specifically refers to onshore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane, or hydraulic fracturing.

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and most of the regulations made under the Act apply to these work activities. Some regulations (e.g. Offshore Installation and Wells (Design and Construction, etc) Regulations 1996 and the Borehole Sites and Operations Regulations 1995) place specific requirements on work activities associated with the onshore extraction of petroleum (oil or gas), which includes onshore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane.

The regulations which place specific requirements on work activities associated with the onshore extraction of petroleum have not been reviewed or amended in the last two years, but the guidance to these regulations was updated in 2008.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer which the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), gave to you on 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 67W. This sets out the other regulatory bodies and provisions in place relevant to these activities.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 300W, on methane: natural gas, whether he has had recent discussions at Ministerial or official level on the preparedness of the Health and Safety Executive for onshore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane using hydraulic fracturing. [37526]

**Chris Grayling:** HSE has regulatory responsibility for the safety of these activities and so as Minister responsible for Health and Safety I am providing a response to this question. The Health and Safety Executive have confirmed to me their preparedness for onshore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane using hydraulic fracturing.

## Parkinson's Disease

**David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the suitability of the work capability assessment for people with (a) Parkinson's disease and (b) other long-term fluctuating neurological conditions. [37853]

**Chris Grayling:** The WCA is a functional assessment—it is not based on someone's diagnosis or health condition but on their functional capability. It is based on the principle that a health condition or disability should not automatically be regarded as a barrier to work and aims to identify whether an individual, with the right support, could prepare for a return to suitable work.

The WCA is designed to recognise fluctuating conditions—rather than being a 'snap shot', it looks at capability most of the time: if someone is unable to do something reliably, repeatedly and safely they are considered unable to do it at all.

Having accepted all the recommendations of Professor Harrington's first independent review, we have now appointed him to conduct a second independent review in which he will focus in particular on fluctuating conditions. Professor Harrington will work with organisations representing people with fluctuating conditions to review and recommend improvements to the assessment.

## Social Security Benefits

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of couples choosing to live apart for financial reasons of his proposed cap on the maximum annual amount of benefits one family can claim. [37094]

**Chris Grayling:** No assessment has been made of the likely effects on the number of families choosing to live apart as a result of the household cap on total benefit income.

## Social Security Benefits: Kirkcaldy

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the working age population of Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency are in receipt of (a) jobseeker's allowance, (b) unemployment allowance, (c) carer's allowance, (d) disability living allowance, (e) widow's or bereavement benefit and (f) other income support. [37454]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is as follows:

*Working age client group split by statistical group in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, May 2010*

| Statistical group                | Caseload | Percentage of population |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| All                              | 9,540    | 16.5                     |
| Job seeker                       | 2,940    | 5.1                      |
| Incapacity benefits              | 3,580    | 6.2                      |
| Lone parents                     | 1,270    | 2.2                      |
| Carer                            | 810      | 1.4                      |
| Other on income related benefits | 140      | 0.2                      |
| Disabled                         | 660      | 1.1                      |

*Working age client group split by statistical group in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, May 2010*

| Statistical group | Caseload | Percentage of population |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Bereaved          | 140      | 0.2                      |

*Notes:*

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to one decimal place.
2. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
3. Percentage population figures have been calculated using General Register Office for Scotland population estimates as at 2008 for working age claimants, i.e. males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
4. State pension age: The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. As percentages were required this table has been prepared using males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59 and will therefore not match published figures.
5. Statistical group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will appear only in the top-most one for which they are eligible. For example a claimant of disability living allowance and jobseeker's allowance would appear in "Job seeker", not in "Disabled".
6. Lone parents are defined as claimants on income support with child under 16 and no partner. Lone parent obligations were introduced from 24 November 2008 affecting the age of the youngest child.
7. From November 2008 the "incapacity benefits group" includes employment and support allowance (ESA). ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of incapacity benefit (including credits only) or severe disablement allowance including people claiming IS on the grounds of incapacity.
8. Caseload figures used for AA, CA and DLA include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).
9. The key benefits which are currently included in the working-age client group data are: Bereavement benefit Carer's allowance Disability living allowance Incapacity benefit Severe disablement allowance Income support (including pension credit for males aged 60 to 64) Jobseeker's allowance Widow's benefit.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS. General Register Office for Scotland Mid-Term Population Estimates, 2008.

### Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether staffing levels were increased during the trial of the reassessments of customers receiving incapacity benefit and income support in north east Scotland. [37625]

**Chris Grayling:** Increased provision was made for the additional activities involved in the delivery of the reassessment trial. Approximately 20 benefit centre staff were redeployed for the period of the exercise. No new staff were recruited.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long appeals by customers against benefit entitlement reassessments during the trial in north east Scotland took to process on average. [37629]

**Chris Grayling:** The IB reassessment trial is still under way. Due to the end to end length of the customer journey, it is too early to provide information on the number of customers who have asked to appeal against their decision and how long the appeals will take to process.

### Work Capability Assessment

**Liya Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the work capability assessment. [37856]

**Chris Grayling:** We welcome the first Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. Published on 23 November 2010, it is a thorough review that has reviewed a substantial amount of evidence. To inform the review, Professor Harrington made a call for evidence, to which he had over 400 responses. The responses came from individuals, organisations and representative bodies.

As a result of his review of this evidence, Professor Harrington has come forward with a wide range of far-reaching and challenging proposals which the Government fully support.

We are committed to taking forward the review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer and more effective. The Government response to Professor Harrington's review sets out how and when we will implement the recommendations of the review, the majority of which will be in place in time for the national roll-out of the incapacity benefits Reassessment programme.

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the backlog of work capability assessment claims awaiting hearing of an appeal by the Tribunal Service to be cleared; and if he will make a statement. [37933]

**Mr Djanogly:** I have been asked to reply.

There are always a number of 'live' appeals in the first tier tribunal—social security and child support (SSCS) progressing through the stages of receipt, decision and promulgation. This total level of work in hand cannot be described as a backlog.

As the volume of SSCS receipts has increased significantly and rapidly beyond original forecasts, the capacity of the Tribunals Service to deal with them has also increased in response; the number of employment support allowance and incapacity benefit cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2010-11 were more than double those cleared in the equivalent period the preceding year.

In September 2010, in respect of employment support allowance and incapacity benefit appeals, capacity increases made within SSCS, meant that around a third of the work in hand was in excess of normal levels. As the Tribunals Service capacity continues to increase, it expects to return to normal levels of work in hand for employment support allowance and incapacity benefit cases by summer 2011.

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many work capability assessments the Jobcentre Plus decision-makers' final decision differed from the initial Atos recommendation in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of those cases were returned to Atos for reconsideration. [37935]

**Chris Grayling:** Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. A key factor in determining eligibility for ESA is the work capability assessment (WCA). The WCA is carried out by health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare. A report of the WCA is then sent to Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus decision makers (JCP DMs) have to consider all the available information before making a decision on benefit entitlement. Any additional evidence provided by a customer's GP or consultant is important and is fully considered as part of this process.

The Department therefore holds information on both the recommendation made by Atos Healthcare at assessment and separate information on the JCP DM's final decision. We can determine where the decision differs but not why the decision was changed or whether a case was returned for reconsideration. Where the final JCP DM decision differs to the original Atos recommendation we refer to the decision being a result of "at reconsideration" which may or not involve a return of the case to Atos.

The number of people for whom Atos recommended they be placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) and the Support Group (SG) and additional people who were placed in the WRAG or SG based on the JCP DM decision is presented in the following table. Please note that the impact of appeals is not included.

*Table 1: ATOS recommendations of placement in the ESA Work Related Activity Group and additional people placed in the ESA Work Related Activity Group at reconsideration by Jobcentre Plus decision maker*

| <i>Claim start month</i> | <i>WRAG—based on ATOS recommendation</i> | <i>Additional people placed in WRAG at reconsideration by JCP DM</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2008</b>              |                                          |                                                                      |
| October                  | 1,200                                    | 80                                                                   |
| November                 | 5,700                                    | 370                                                                  |
| December                 | 5,420                                    | 330                                                                  |
| <b>2009</b>              |                                          |                                                                      |
| January                  | 7,450                                    | 460                                                                  |
| February                 | 6,920                                    | 450                                                                  |
| March                    | 8,050                                    | 580                                                                  |
| April                    | 7,750                                    | 600                                                                  |
| May                      | 7,820                                    | 580                                                                  |
| June                     | 8,480                                    | 690                                                                  |
| July                     | 8,690                                    | 740                                                                  |
| August                   | 8,120                                    | 710                                                                  |
| September                | 8,840                                    | 840                                                                  |
| October                  | 8,160                                    | 860                                                                  |
| November                 | 7,900                                    | 780                                                                  |
| December                 | 6,850                                    | 660                                                                  |
| <b>2010</b>              |                                          |                                                                      |
| January                  | 8,800                                    | 830                                                                  |

*Table 1: ATOS recommendations of placement in the ESA Work Related Activity Group and additional people placed in the ESA Work Related Activity Group at reconsideration by Jobcentre Plus decision maker*

| <i>Claim start month</i> | <i>WRAG—based on ATOS recommendation</i> | <i>Additional people placed in WRAG at reconsideration by JCP DM</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February                 | 8,300                                    | 700                                                                  |
| March                    | 8,670                                    | 700                                                                  |
| April                    | 8,020                                    | 690                                                                  |
| May                      | 7,110                                    | 620                                                                  |
| Total                    | 148,270                                  | 12,230                                                               |

*Table 2: ATOS recommendations of placement in the ESA Support Group and additional people placed in the ESA Support Group at reconsideration by Jobcentre Plus decision maker*

| <i>Claim start month</i> | <i>SG—based on ATOS recommendation</i> | <i>Additional people moved to SG—at reconsideration</i> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2008</b>              |                                        |                                                         |
| October                  | 670                                    | 40                                                      |
| November                 | 2,670                                  | 250                                                     |
| December                 | 2,440                                  | 240                                                     |
| <b>2009</b>              |                                        |                                                         |
| January                  | 2,960                                  | 300                                                     |
| February                 | 2,660                                  | 300                                                     |
| March                    | 3,000                                  | 340                                                     |
| April                    | 2,900                                  | 320                                                     |
| May                      | 2,970                                  | 330                                                     |
| June                     | 3,040                                  | 370                                                     |
| July                     | 3,480                                  | 350                                                     |
| August                   | 3,030                                  | 340                                                     |
| September                | 3,430                                  | 320                                                     |
| October                  | 2,950                                  | 350                                                     |
| November                 | 3,030                                  | 320                                                     |
| December                 | 2,660                                  | 280                                                     |
| <b>2010</b>              |                                        |                                                         |
| January                  | 3,040                                  | 290                                                     |
| February                 | 2,810                                  | 260                                                     |
| March                    | 3,150                                  | 290                                                     |
| April                    | 2,950                                  | 250                                                     |
| May                      | 2,680                                  | 230                                                     |
| Total                    | 56,480                                 | 5,770                                                   |

**Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many re-assessments of work capability assessments were undertaken within (a) three months, (b) three to six months, (c) six to nine months, (d) 12 to 15 months and (e) 15 to 18 months of the original assessment in each of the last three years. [37673]

**Chris Grayling:** Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. Eligibility for ESA is determined by the work capability assessment (WCA).

Following the first WCA, those placed on the benefit will be given a provisional date for reassessment via a further WCA. The timing of this is determined by the nature of their health condition(s).



The table shows the number of initial reassessments via the WCA process that have occurred in the time periods shown, at the national level.

Data are provided for ESA claims starting from October 2008 up to May 2010, the latest data available.

These figures are subject to change as more up to date information becomes available.

| Time between initial and 1 <sup>st</sup> repeat WCA | Number of repeat WCA nationally |                          |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                     | October 2008 to March 2009      | April 2009 to March 2010 | April 2010 to May 2010 |
| Within 3 months                                     | 250                             | 400                      | 60                     |
| 3 to 6 months                                       | 1,130                           | 6,150                    | 620                    |
| 6 to 9 months                                       | 6,010                           | 20,540                   | 60                     |
| 9 to 12 months                                      | 4,660                           | 6,880                    | 0                      |
| 12 to 15 months                                     | 8,380                           | 5,860                    | 0                      |
| 15 to 18 months                                     | 3,660                           | 980                      | 0                      |

Source:

Benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on ESA and the WCA, the latest report was released in January 2011. The reports can be found on the internet here:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa\\_wca/index.php?page=esa\\_wca\\_arc](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc)

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: Newton Abbot

**Anne Marie Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to assist employers in Newton Abbot constituency to take on an apprentice. [36519]

**Mr Hayes:** We are committed to expanding the Apprenticeship programme nationally and we are determined to make it easier for employers of all sizes and in all regions to take on apprentices. In England, we have increased funding for Apprenticeships to over £1.4 billion in the 2011-12 financial year. This means we will have funding in place to train over 300,000 apprentices (at all ages).

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has worked closely with South Devon College on a joint initiative to increase the number of new Apprenticeship places in the South Devon area, including Newton Abbot, and is also promoting the local 'Skills Boost' initiative.

As part of National Apprenticeship Week (7 to 11 February 2011), the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has arranged a number of local events in the area, including in Newton Abbot, where I understand that my hon. Friend, the Member for Newton Abbot will be meeting local apprentices recruited to the new Building Services framework.

### Carers: Flexible Working

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with (a) employers and (b) carers' organisations on possible changes to flexible working opportunities for carers. [R] [38167]

### Exports

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage new exports. [36590]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government will shortly publish a Trade and Investment White Paper which will set out the Government's framework for encouraging trade and investment in the UK and internationally.

Linked to this, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is developing a new strategy as part of the Government's growth review. This will set out new priorities for trade promotion. It is through these activities this Department encourages businesses new to exporting to discover and seize international opportunities, and more experienced exporters to improve their exporting capability.

UKTI services are delivered through a network of international trade advisers in England, partner organisations in the devolved Administrations and staff in 96 overseas markets. In 2009/10, UKTI provided significant help to some 23,600 exporters generating over £5 billion of added value to the UK economy.

### Higher Education

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the quality of information higher education institutions make available to potential students; and if he will make a statement. [38555]

**Mr Willetts:** The Government's future vision for higher education is a system where students have real choice. As such, a major priority for the Government is to

improve the quality of information available to potential students, so that more informed choices on course and university can be made.

Last year the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) commissioned detailed research to identify the key pieces of information which students say they find useful. This has directly informed the development of the proposed Key Information Set (KIS).

The introduction of the KIS is a significant step forward. It will provide a standard set of 17 items of information for each course, to be made available on university websites. However, I see this as just the start of a process to radically increase the quality of information available to students, to present it in much more innovative ways, and to encourage new providers into the student information market.

HEFCE are currently holding a public consultation on the content of the KIS. Final recommendations will be made by the Higher Education Public Information Steering Group in spring 2011, and a further statement will be made in the Higher Education White Paper.

#### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of (a) undergraduate and (b) postgraduate degree starters were (i) men and (ii) women in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [37992]

(2) what proportion of (a) undergraduate and (b) postgraduate degree starts were non-EU students in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [37993]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

*Proportion of entrants<sup>1</sup> to postgraduate courses<sup>2</sup> and undergraduate degree courses<sup>3</sup> by gender and domicile. UK higher education institutions. Academic year 2009/10*

|        | Postgraduate | Undergraduate degree |
|--------|--------------|----------------------|
| Female | 55           | 55                   |
| Male   | 45           | 45                   |
| UK     | 62           | 86                   |
| EU     | 8            | 5                    |
| Non-EU | 29           | 9                    |

<sup>1</sup> Covers entrants of all domiciles to both full-time and part-time courses.

<sup>2</sup> Covers entrants to all postgraduate courses.

<sup>3</sup> Cover entrants to first degree courses only, therefore excludes other undergraduate courses such as foundation degrees, HND/Cs etc.

*Note:*

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population. Due to rounding, components may not sum 100%.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of students who were (a) eligible and (b) not eligible for free school meals at the age of 16 years started undergraduate courses in 2010; [38003]

(2) how many and what proportion of students who were (a) eligible and (b) not eligible for free school meals at the age of 16 years began undergraduate courses at Russell Group universities in 2010. [38004]

**Mr Willetts:** The requested information is not available for 2010. The most recent data available for the 2007/08 academic year have been provided in the table and relate to pupils aged 15 rather than age 16. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available later this year.

It is known that not all pupils who are eligible for free school meals claim them. Such pupils would be excluded from these figures. These rounded estimates allow for a small margin of error that arises as result of the matching procedure deployed.

*Estimates of the number and proportion of pupils aged 15 in 2003/04, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by age 19 in 2007/08*

|                                     |                      | Number  | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|----------------|
| Young persons in UK HE <sup>1</sup> | FSM <sup>2</sup>     | 12,600  | 15             |
|                                     | Non-FSM <sup>2</sup> | 169,500 | 33             |
| of which Russell Group HEIs         | FSM                  | 1,100   | 1              |
|                                     | Non-FSM              | 34,000  | 7              |

<sup>1</sup> Includes HE level courses at English further education colleges.

<sup>2</sup> FSM and non-FSM indicate receipt and non-receipt of free school meals respectively.

*Note:*

In 2003/04 there were 82,800 maintained school pupils aged 15 claiming free school meals. This represents 14% of all pupils in English maintained schools.

*Source:*

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Individualised Learner Record. All figures are estimates and numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

#### Higher Education: Applications

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to make alternative provision for higher education for university applicants who are unsuccessful in application for university places in the academic years to 2015-16. [37618]

**Mr Willetts:** Entry to university is and should be competitive. Universities offer places on the basis of merit. Inevitably, not all applicants will gain a place. Many of these applicants will, however, be successful in subsequent years. A strong demand for places was expected this year so universities will be able to recruit the same number of new students in 2011 as in 2010. In addition, this Government have already expanded the alternatives to university, by providing 50,000 new places on apprenticeships, for which there is rising employer demand. Our reforms will also make part-time university study more accessible.

#### Higher Education: Science

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with higher education institutions on promoting science and innovation; and if he will make a statement. [38710]

**Mr Willetts:** I have had many recent discussions on promoting science and innovation with higher education institutions (HEIs), both individually and through representative bodies. My statement to Parliament on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 135WS, sets out the Government's position.

#### Industrial Health and Safety

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made in reviewing the (a) employment law and (b) health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since his appointment. [36970]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is leading the employment law review across Government. This is an ongoing project where Departments with responsibility for employment law, including BIS, are considering their legislation area by area. As part of this, we last week published a consultation on reforming the employment tribunal system, "Resolving Workplace Disputes", which is a major first step in the review.

This Department is not responsible for health and safety at work regulations, which fall to the Department for Work and Pensions.

#### Nuclear Power: Training

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage school leavers to train in nuclear engineering. [36592]

**Mr Hayes:** The UK and global Nuclear New Build industry, together with decommissioning both in the UK and in other markets, represents a huge career opportunity, requiring new entrants. The Government are working with skills partners to ensure career opportunities are realised from this market and employers have the skills they need. Demand is being raised among school leavers through road shows, the children's and adults' careers information services, the STEM ambassadors programme, and the development of new qualifications. There is strong demand for specialist nuclear apprenticeship, further education and degree programmes, as well as for the generic engineering construction skills needed by the industry.

#### Overseas Students: Loans

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what measures are in place to ensure that students from other EU countries studying in the UK repay their student loans after leaving the UK. [38330]

**Mr Willetts:** Student loans in England are only available to those who meet the relevant residence requirements. The Student Loans Company (SLC) applies the same mechanisms to all borrowers who move overseas after leaving their course.

When borrowers move abroad, whether temporarily or because they live in another country, they must give the SLC information about their location and earnings. SLC will determine whether the borrower should be making repayments and if so, gives them a monthly

repayment schedule under the terms of the contract of the loan. The SLC will convert the income into pound sterling and tell the borrower the amount they will need to pay each month in pound sterling.

Where borrowers move overseas and do not notify the SLC, they may be charged penalties which will be added to the outstanding loan amount. They may also have to pay the costs of any trace agents employed by SLC. In some circumstances, they may have to repay the full outstanding amount in a single payment.

Effective collection of student loans across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001, which allows the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. Borrowers who choose to disregard their obligation will be pursued by SLC and where appropriate, court orders will be sought.

#### Overseas Trade: Israel

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of trade with Israel. [38604]

**Mr Prisk:** The benefits of international trade to the economy result from greater economic efficiency due to a combination of increased competition in markets, comparative advantages, economies of scale, increased opportunities for learning, and greater incentives for innovation. Due to the difficulty of differentiating between the impact of trade and other factors on growth, it is not possible to quantify precisely the impact of trade with another country on the economy.

The UK exports of goods and services to Israel in 2009 were worth the equivalent of about 0.12% of UK Gross Domestic Product at market prices. Imports from Israel were worth the equivalent of about 0.10% of GDP.

#### Part-time Education

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many (a) 18 to 24 year olds and (b) over 24 year olds studied on (i) part-time undergraduate degrees, (ii) part-time foundation degrees and (iii) part-time other undergraduate degrees in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [38117]

**Mr Willetts:** The numbers of English-domiciled part-time undergraduate enrolments at UK higher education institutions are shown by age group and level of study in Table 1. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

The numbers of English-domiciled part-time undergraduate enrolments at English further education colleges are shown by age group and level of study in Table 2. Figures are taken from the Skills Funding Agency Individualised Learning Record and are provided for the 2008/09 academic year. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available later this year.



Table 1: English-domiciled part-time undergraduate enrolments by age group and level of study UK higher education institutions. Academic year 2009/10

| Level of study                   | Age group |        |             | Total   |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------|---------|
|                                  | Under 18  | 18-24  | 25 and over |         |
| First degree                     | 225       | 41,115 | 130,435     | 171,770 |
| Foundation degree                | 40        | 8,765  | 27,270      | 36,080  |
| Other undergraduate <sup>1</sup> | 6,765     | 35,115 | 205,295     | 247,180 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes students enrolled on higher national diplomas (HNDs), higher national certificates (HNCs), diplomas and certificates of higher education, national vocational qualifications (NVQs) at undergraduate level and other sub-degree courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Table 2: English-domiciled part-time undergraduate enrolments by age group and level of study English further education colleges. Academic year 2008/09

| Level of study                   | Age group |        |             | Total  |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|
|                                  | Under 18  | 18-24  | 25 and over |        |
| First degree                     | 5         | 4,250  | 3,815       | 8,065  |
| Foundation degree                | 160       | 14,185 | 42,285      | 56,625 |
| Other undergraduate <sup>1</sup> | 30        | 6,765  | 8,580       | 15,375 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes students enrolled on higher national diplomas (HNDs), higher national certificates (HNCs), diplomas and certificates of higher education and other sub-degree courses.

Note:

Figures have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Skills Funding Agency Individualised Learning Record (L05).

### Post Offices

**Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure post offices are able to provide a variety of services to customers. [38203]

**Mr Davey:** We set out our plans for the future of the post office network, including the variety of services that customers will be able to access, in our policy statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", published on 9 November 2010. This includes our aim to see the post office becoming a genuine front office for Government at both the local and national level, and the expansion of accessible and affordable financial services.

Copies of the policy statement have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Skills and Jobs Retention Group

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the membership of the Skills and Jobs Retention Group is; whether it has met since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [38193]

**Mr Prisk:** The Skills and Jobs Retention Group is an industry-led group created to ensure that high value skills in the defence sector can be effectively redeployed where there are industrial changes as a result of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

The Group has had two full formal sessions: a teleconference on 17 December 2010 and a meeting on 12 January 2011. There has also been regular discussion between group members, and with other individuals, businesses and organisations to progress work. The Secretary of State met Chairman, Allan Cook, on 31 January 2011 to discuss the activity under way and progress overall. By the end of March 2011, the Group will have developed an action plan to assist redeployment, which will be considered as part of the ongoing work to remove barriers to growth and improve conditions for business success within the Advanced Manufacturing strand of the Growth Review.

### Social Enterprises

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many (a) not-for-profit and (b) community interest companies were registered in each of the last five years. [38462]

**Mr Davey:** Companies House does not differentiate between not-for-profit and other companies; therefore the information is not available. The number of community interest companies registered in each of the last five years is as follows.

|      | Number of community interest companies |
|------|----------------------------------------|
| 2007 | 44                                     |
| 2008 | 872                                    |
| 2009 | 1,298                                  |
| 2010 | 1,596                                  |
| 2011 | 178                                    |

### Student Loans Company: Complaints

**Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many disputes between the Student Loans Company and individuals in (a) Romsey and Southampton North constituency and (b) England were pending a resolution in the latest period for which figures are available. [38204]

**Mr Willetts:** Disputes raised with the Student Loans Company (SLC) are dealt with under the SLC's complaints handling procedures. The SLC does not organise complaints raised by constituency, but is able to identify complaints raised by individual Members of Parliament.

SLC records show my hon. Friend raised three disputes on behalf of constituents in Romsey and Southampton North. These were dealt with in July and September 2010 and in January 2011 and there are currently no cases known to be pending a resolution.

As of 3 February, the latest date for which figures are available, a total of 149 complaints were awaiting a response from the SLC. The SLC is not readily able to say how many of these are in relation to English domiciled students.

**Students: Finance**

**Mr Robin Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to allocate additional funding for student finance to university courses in (a) early years education, (b) emergency care and (c) other strategically important subjects.

[37529]

**Mr Willetts:** The Higher Education Funding Council allocates funding for teaching at the institutional and course level. The Government will set out its proposals on how it sees funding for university teaching operating in future in our forthcoming White Paper. This will include proposals on the future funding of strategically important and vulnerable subjects.

**Students: Court Judgments**

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 600W, on overseas students: EU nationals, how many judgments in UK courts secured by the Student Loans Company were being actively enforced through court orders in other EU countries in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement.

[38558]

**Mr Willetts** [holding answer 4 February 2011]: EC Regulation 44/2001 enables the Student Loans Company (SLC) to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. These judgments can be enforced against any borrower who has moved to another EU member state, regardless of nationality. This route would not be available in the event that a graduate tax was implemented.

Tuition fee loans have been available for EU students since 2006/07. The first main cohort of these students commenced their repayments in April 2010, provided that their income was above the appropriate threshold.

In 2009, the SLC successfully raised nine judgments against EU borrowers. The SLC enforced some in Scottish courts and some in other EU countries. This group of borrowers were those who had left their courses and who came into repayment earlier than the first main cohort. We cannot break the information down further as it could compromise the confidentiality of individuals.

**Working Hours: EU Law**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effect of the operation of the European working time directive on levels of wellbeing.

[38386]

**Mr Davey:** The working time regulations give all workers an entitlement to regular rest and annual leave and ensure that workers cannot be forced to work more than 48 hours a week on average but can agree to work beyond this limit.

Many factors contribute to well-being of which one of the most important is that people have access to employment, so it is critical that European employment measures enhance and do not undermine prospects for

employment and for growth. This will continue to be one of the key assessments of any consideration of the European working time directive.

**ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE****Carbon Emissions**

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with (a) his officials, (b) Ministerial colleagues and (c) industry representatives on the potential effects on (i) carbon reduction targets and (ii) costs to business of changes to the carbon reduction commitment system.

[38473]

**Gregory Barker:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have discussed and continue to discuss the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme with a range of stakeholders, including participants in the scheme. My officials are also meeting a wide range of interested parties. We published a consultation paper on a first tranche of simplifications to the CRC in November last year which was produced in close co-operation with Whitehall and devolved Administration colleagues.

The changes to the scheme announced last year including the initial simplification measures set out in the consultation paper will not impact on the emissions savings potential of this scheme nor the capacity for the UK to meet its carbon budgets.

The cost impact on business of our initial changes to the CRC will depend on the extent to which participants reduce their energy consumption before they are required to purchase and surrender allowances in 2012. As previously announced, it is our intention to deliver further simplification of the CRC and detailed options are being discussed with CRC participants.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress he has made on the implementation of the carbon reduction commitment.

[38522]

**Gregory Barker:** The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme went live on 1 April 2010. To date, 2,772 organisations have registered as full participants and over 12,812 organisations have made information declarations. Participants will need to submit their footprint reports and first annual reports in July this year, to inform the publication of the first Performance League Table in October. Government intend to hold the first sale of allowances, to cover emissions year 2011-12, in 2012 and to begin registration for the second phase of the scheme in 2013.

**Energy Supply**

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the number of (a) owners of private electricity and gas networks and (b) tenants receiving electricity from private networks who will be affected by the ruling of the European Court of Justice on third party access.

[38275]

**Charles Hendry:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 130W.

#### Energy: Meters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has received representations on the protection of data gathered from domestic smart meters. [38284]

**Charles Hendry:** As part of the Prospectus consultation on Smart Meters, published in July 2010 we have received a number of responses covering data protection. In addition industry and consumer organisations have also raised this issue in discussions.

DECC and Ofgem are currently preparing the response to the Prospectus consultation, which will cover data protection issues in relation to the rollout of smart meters.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the implications of the Data Protection Act 1998 for the use of data gathered from smart meters by energy companies. [38575]

**Charles Hendry** [holding answer 4 February 2011]: The Data Protection Act (DPA) establishes a framework of rights and duties which are designed to safeguard personal data. A person who handles data (a data controller) must comply with the DPA.

As part of the Smart Meters Programme there has been a rigorous approach to assessing and managing data privacy issues. We are building on the safeguards already in place, particularly the DPA, to develop a privacy policy framework for smart meters.

The DPA applies to energy consumption data if a data controller is able to identify a living person from those data, or other data they may hold, eg address details. This applies to conventional and prepayment meters as well as smart meters.

#### Fuel Oil: Prices

**Ms Bagshawe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he is taking steps to increase (a) competition and (b) accountability in the heating oil market. [38687]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government are sympathetic to the plight of many heating oil consumers who were hit hard by high prices and supply issues this winter.

I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement laid before Parliament on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 55WS. I am keen that the reasons for the high heating oil prices and supply issues this winter are thoroughly investigated by an independent authority. I wrote to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy. I also asked the OFT if the study could explore the longer term consumer issues such as lifetime payback, consumer standards and labelling for alternative energy sources or supplies. Such a study

would provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly.

I welcome the independent assessment of the off-grid market to be made by the OFT, and we look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to achieve its target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the UK by at least 34 per cent. by 2020. [39059]

**Gregory Barker:** Latest emissions projections, published in June 2010, show that the UK is on track to meet its 2020 target, and has already reduced emissions by over 26% against 1990 levels, taking into account the effects of emissions trading. Additional policies to be implemented by the Government, such as the Green Deal, support for the world's first commercial scale CCS demonstration, and the roll-out of smart meters and a smart grid will build on this progress. Further information on the actions to take forward these policies can be found in DECC's business plan (published November 2010).

#### Nuclear Power Stations

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on the timetable for delivery of new nuclear build of his proposal to increase the liability cost per nuclear site on generators to cover the consequences of accidents. [38474]

**Charles Hendry:** A public consultation was published on 24 January, setting out our proposals to implement the amended Paris and Brussels conventions on nuclear third party liability. It included the proposed increase in liability levels that existing nuclear and prospective new build operators would be expected to cover in the event of a nuclear incident. We await responses to the consultation, however, we currently have no evidence to suggest that the proposed increases in liability will affect the pathway to the commercial operation of the first new nuclear power station by 2018.

#### Renewable Energy

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the use of used cooking oil in the provision of renewable and sustainable energy (a) for transport, (b) for heat and (c) in combined heat and power. [37880]

**Charles Hendry:** Figures from the Renewable Fuels Agency and Ofgem for the use of used cooking oil in 2009-10 in renewable energy are as follows:

(a) 43 million litres of biofuel for transport was derived from used cooking oil, representing about 3% of the total volume of biofuels supplied.

(b) data are not collected which would identify the use of used cooking oil in heat only applications.



(c) 960,000 litres have been used in combined heat and power applications, which represents about 70% of used cooking oil in the renewables obligation.

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which energy-from-waste producers and project developers have been contacted by his Department as part of its review of the renewables obligation banding system with regard to the deployment potential and generation costs of renewable electricity targets. [37998]

**Charles Hendry:** The following energy from waste producers and project developers have been contacted by consultants acting on DECC's behalf to collect data on technology costs and deployment potential as part of the current Renewables Obligation Banding Review:

Covanta  
Veolia  
Sita/Cofely  
Viridor  
WRG  
Amey  
Orchid-environmental  
Fichtner

Other organisations with an interest in the Banding Review are welcome to contact DECC, either now or as part of the statutory consultation later this year.

#### Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many installations of (a) solar photovoltaic panels, (b) wind turbines and (c) mini hydro-generators have occurred in (i) Glasgow, (ii) Scotland, (iii) England, (iv) Wales and (v) Northern Ireland since the establishment of the feed-in tariff scheme. [38521]

**Charles Hendry:** Data from Ofgem show that, since the establishment of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme, the number of solar photovoltaic (PV), wind and hydro installations accredited for FITs in Glasgow, Scotland, England and Wales up to 31 December 2010 are:

|           | Glasgow | Scotland | England | Wales |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|-------|
| Solar PVs | 11      | 376      | 13,662  | 562   |
| Wind      | 0       | 145      | 194     | 24    |
| Hydro     | 0       | 11       | 21      | 13    |

These exclude schemes transferred into the FITs from the RO which were in operation before 15 July 2009. Information for Glasgow refers to the area covered by Glasgow council local authority. The data also exclude an additional 55 stations for which the location is yet to be identified.

Figures are not provided for Northern Ireland because the FITs scheme applies only to England, Scotland and Wales.

#### Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any concerns were raised with him by (a) his officials and (b) other individuals and organisations in respect of the likely

effects on the supply chain of the decision to withdraw the loan to Sheffield Forgemasters (i) before and (ii) after the loan was withdrawn. [38472]

**Charles Hendry:** The number of representations received from individuals and organisations on the decision to withdraw the loan to Sheffield Forgemasters were included in my written ministerial statement laid before Parliament on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 49WS.

Officials provide me with advice on a wide range of issues including this.

I meet regularly with energy companies and reactor vendors who have not said that this decision will impact on the plans they have announced for new nuclear in the UK. Ultra heavy forgings for items such as pressure vessels need to be ordered a long time in advance and vendors already have slots booked with existing suppliers to ensure that when they are building reactors around the world the necessary elements are available.

## HEALTH

### Cancer: Screening

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill on the time taken by GPs to refer patients for diagnostic tests for cancer. [38107]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department has established a rolling programme of general practitioner (GP) consortium pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning, such as the commissioning of diagnostic services, and to enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions. The shadow National Health Service Commissioning Board will produce and publish an analysis of the findings of the pathfinder programme and set out the lessons learned that will be applied as consortia become formally established during 2012-13, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill 2011.

'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January, set out how the coalition government's reforms of health and care services will improve outcomes for all cancer patients. A copy has already been placed in the Library. To support the NHS to diagnose cancer earlier, we are providing £450 million over the next four years that will give GPs direct access to a range of diagnostic tests to confirm or rule out cancer and fund associated cancer treatments in secondary care. It will be the role of GP consortia to commission these additional tests.

The strategy also confirmed that the current cancer waiting time standards are clinically justified and should be retained. This means patients urgently referred with suspected cancer by their GP should be seen by a specialist within two weeks, and should receive their first treatment within 31 days from the decision to treat being made.

### Carers

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the provision of 'carers' services in England; and if he will make a statement. [38165]

**Paul Burstow:** Ministers have had internal discussions, including the Inter-Ministerial Group in July 2010, about future support for carers in addition to meetings with voluntary and statutory sector organisations, and carers themselves. These included: a visit to BT to discuss flexible working in the workplace in August 2010; a visit to a Princess Royal Trust for Carers Centre in the North West in November 2010; a speech and question and answer at the Carers UK National Carers Summit in November 2010; and attendance at the Social Care Reference Group in December 2010, with the next meeting planned for March 2011.

The Standing Commission on Carers (SCOC) is an independent advisory body, which meets quarterly, and provides expert advice to Ministers and the Carers Strategy Cross-Government Programme Board on improving support for carers and on the longer-term strategic challenges. SCOC's membership reflects a broad range of interests and expertise from across the public, professional and voluntary sectors. The Minister plans to attend the next SCOC meeting in March 2011.

In respect of the call for views leading to the development of "Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy", we received responses from 764 individuals and organisations. We took account of these responses when we were drafting the new strategy and deciding on our priorities for carers over the next four years.

#### Cataracts: Medical Treatments

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been made available for the NHS for eye lens treatments in financial year 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [38188]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Treatment services for ophthalmic conditions are funded from primary care trusts' (PCTs) general recurrent revenue allocations, in common with most other elements of health care. General allocations are not attributed to specific services centrally. Individual PCTs decide the distribution of resources, after taking account of local and national priorities.

#### Dental Services

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of primary dental care providers had registered with the Care Quality Commission by 31 December 2010. [38217]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Primary dental care providers are required to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) from 1 April 2011. To qualify for suspension of the offence of carrying on a regulated activity without being registered if CQC does not reach a registration decision by 1 April, transitional regulations specified that providers should submit their application by a specific date. In the case of national health service providers of primary dental care, CQC sets this date. In the case of independent sector providers, this date was set in the regulations at 31 December 2010. As CQC set the application date for the majority of providers, figures are not available for the numbers of providers who had submitted an application by 31 December 2010.

As at 2 February 2011, 7,005 primary dental care providers had submitted an application for registration. Of the 8,498 primary dental care providers in England invited to apply for registration, 82% have submitted an application to register with the Commission.

#### Doctors: Training

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that junior doctors receive adequate time for training. [38209]

**Anne Milton:** We are aware of the concerns that implementing the European working time directive (EWTD) might have adverse implications for postgraduate medical training. Medical Education England (the Government's independent advisory body on medical education and training) commissioned a report on the impact of EWTD on the quality of training. We welcomed the publication of 'Time for Training' by Professor Sir John Temple, available at:

[www.mec.nhs.uk](http://www.mec.nhs.uk)

and Medical Education England have been asked to take the lead in implementing the changes to improve training practices in line with the recommendations. We will also support colleagues from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in taking a robust approach to future negotiations on the directive to achieve greater flexibility.

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the availability of hospital placements for trainee doctors. [38291]

**Anne Milton:** Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for commissioning training places. SHA plans for specialty medical training posts in hospitals for 2011 were agreed in November 2010, with recruitment commencing in December, taking into account the report from the Centre for Workforce Intelligence "Recommendations for medical specialty training 2011", which can be found at:

[www.cfwi.org.uk/intelligence/projects/recommendation-for-medical-specialty-training-2011](http://www.cfwi.org.uk/intelligence/projects/recommendation-for-medical-specialty-training-2011)

SHA plans are received and reviewed by a joint working group of clinical and service leads who advise the Medical Education England Medical Programme Board.

#### Family Practitioner Services

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department proposes for the future of (a) pay and (b) provision for (i) GP practices, (ii) dentists, (iii) opticians and (iv) pharmacists under his proposals to reform the NHS. [37995]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We set out our view on the future of pay and terms and conditions in the NHS White Paper, "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS". In the short term those staff directly employed by the national health service will be covered by the Government's pay policy for all public sector workers, with a pay freeze proposed for two years from 2011-12 for those earning more than £21,000. In the longer term, the Government believes that pay decisions should be led by health care employers rather than imposed by the Government and

that, in the future, all individual employers will have the right to determine pay for their own staff, as is the case now with foundation trusts.

The majority of general practitioners (GPs) are independent contractors who hold contracts for providing services. Their pay is determined within the Doctors and Dentists Review Body recommendations on their contract values. These contract values have been frozen for two years in line with the Government's pay freeze.

Like GPs, dentists are, for the most part, self-employed contractors, and their pay is determined within the Doctors and Dentists Review Body recommendations on their contract values.

The funding provided for the community pharmacy contractual framework is currently determined by the Department, informed by negotiations with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee.

The level of reimbursement to opticians for NHS sight tests is determined following consultation by the Department with bodies representative of optical providers.

In the longer term, the NHS Commissioning Board will take on responsibility for contracting with all independent sector primary care contractors and through their commissioning decisions will determine fees and reimbursements to these contractors. In doing so, they will continue to be informed by relevant independent pay review bodies.

Staff employed by independent contractors are subject to local pay and conditions as determined by the contractor. It is a matter for the contractor to determine if a contract is offered in line with model recommendations, or a separately negotiated pay agreement is made.

#### General Practitioner Commissioning

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether (a) civil servants, (b) special advisers and (c) other individuals employed by his Department have had discussions with (i) any private healthcare companies and (ii) Tribal on GP commissioning consortia. [38787]

Mr Simon Burns: Senior civil servants and special advisers have had discussions with a wide range of interested parties on general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia, including GPs, charitable organisations, professional organisations and private companies, including Tribal.

#### Health Education

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Change4Life programme in each of the last five years; and what contributions to the programme were received from private sector organisations in each such year. [38092]

Anne Milton: In the past two financial years (2008-09 and 2009-10) for which there are complete records of, approximately £50 million was spent on Change4Life by the Department.

The Change4Life "One Year On" report states that in the 2009-10 financial year the in-kind contributions to the Change4Life campaign by private sector organisations were valued at £7.5 million.

#### Heart Diseases: Health Services

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make pulse checks a routine procedure within the NHS Health Check programme as a means of identifying arrhythmia; and what steps he is taking to raise awareness of this issue. [38443]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Health Check programme is a national risk assessment and management programme that assesses people aged 40 to 74 for their risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and chronic kidney disease. Everyone having a NHS Health Check will be supported to manage their risk of these diseases through individually tailored lifestyle advice and support, and appropriate follow up to help them stay well for longer. Those diagnosed with previously undetected disease will receive earlier management, improving their health outcomes for the future.

The modelling undertaken by the Department that underpins the programme shows it to be clinically and cost-effective. A test for atrial fibrillation—the most common arrhythmia—is not currently included as part of the set of tests and measurements for the NHS Health Check programme.

Primary care trusts (PCT) may however decide to extend the range and scope of their programmes to include taking the pulse in older age groups to identify atrial fibrillation. In making this decision, PCTs will need to consider the costs incurred balanced with the potential benefits.

NHS Improvement is undertaking a programme of work to improve the detection and treatment of atrial fibrillation (characterised by a fast and erratic heartbeat).

#### Hospices: Children

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of (a) funding for children's hospices under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 and (b) the Hospice-at-Home Grant. [37837]

Anne Milton: The Department is supportive of the children's hospice movement and has given an annual hospice grant to the sector for five years. A review of palliative care funding is being undertaken to make palliative care more equitable and to better enable patients to choose how and from whom they receive their care. This is due to report in the summer. Professor Sir Alan Craft leads on the children's element of this review.

£10 million for 2011-12 has been allocated to support hospices during the transition to this new scheme.

Up to £30 million has been made available to the children's palliative care sector for 2010-11—this funding is directly supporting local services, including hospices.

The Department does provide some grant funding to the voluntary sector, using section 64 powers, principally through the Innovation, Excellence and Service Development (IESD) Fund. The fund is open to organisations who can apply annually, providing they meet the relevant criteria.



### Hospitals: Waiting Lists

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department spent on waiting list initiatives in the latest quarter for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [38103]

(2) how many posts of (a) surgeons, (b) anaesthetists, (c) nurses, (d) consultant surgeons and (e) registrars were funded through waiting list initiatives in the latest quarter for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [38105]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has not centrally funded waiting list initiatives in the last quarter. It is for the national health service to agree locally with clinicians any incentive or reward schemes designed to support the overall aim of ensuring that patients receive the care that best suits their needs.

The Department does not collect information on how much has been spent on local waiting list initiatives or on how many posts were funded by such initiatives.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future (a) collection and (b) publication of data on waiting times for operations and diagnostic tests. [38206]

**Mr Simon Burns:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy), the hon. Member for St Helens North (Mr Watts), and the hon. Member for Makerfield (Yvonne Fovargue) on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 630W.

### Infant Foods

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects on infant health of (a) synthesised forms of docosahexaenoic acid used in formula milk and (b) docosahexaenoic acid in breast milk. [38516]

**Anne Milton:** The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment assessed the effects of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and other long chain omega 3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (LC n-3 PUFA) on infant health, specifically on early human growth and cognitive function. They concluded that evidence to support a relationship between intake of infant formula supplemented with DHA and other LC n-3 PUFA and cognitive function and behavioural development in healthy full term infants is unclear. A further research study commissioned by the Food Standards Agency in 2004 also reported similar findings that are consistent with these conclusions. The Department has not specifically assessed the effect of DHA in breast milk on cognitive function and development of healthy infants.

### Malaria: Drugs

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the availability of prescriptions for malaria prophylaxis on the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [38057]

**Anne Milton:** Malaria prophylaxis are a travel medicine and are not routinely available for free on the national health service. Anti-malarial medicines are a prescription only medicine and general practitioners (GPs) normally provide access to these medicines by way of private prescriptions. The same drugs that are used for prophylaxis are also used for treatment. In those circumstances, they are available on NHS prescriptions.

### Maternity Services

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the take-up of perinatal healthcare by (a) socio-economic group and (b) ethnicity; [37847]

(2) what arrangements are in place to advertise the availability of perinatal care in (a) Haringey, (b) London and (c) England. [37852]

**Anne Milton:** The best measure of take up of maternity services available is from the NHS maternity statistics. Details of hospital deliveries by ethnicity are in the following table. The NHS maternity statistics do not include details of socio-economic status.

| Ethnic group           | Number of deliveries <sup>1</sup> | Percentage of total deliveries |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| White                  | 463,016                           | 77.6                           |
| Asian or Asian British | 65,782                            | 11.0                           |
| Black or Black British | 35,152                            | 5.9                            |
| Chinese and Other      | 21,853                            | 3.7                            |
| Mixed                  | 10,492                            | 1.8                            |
| Total                  | 596,295                           | 100                            |

<sup>1</sup> Deliveries where ethnic group of mother is unknown have been excluded.

Source:

NHS Maternity Statistics 2009-10, NHS Information Centre.

Maternity services are available to women in Haringey via direct access or referral from a general practitioner (GP). Information about direct access to midwifery services is available on hospital trust websites and has been widely disseminated via children's centres, general practice and related services such as contraceptive and sexual health services. GPs are aware of local maternity services as well as the importance of early access, receiving regular training and updates from the maternity and obstetric teams through GP meetings and educational sessions. GPs discuss access to specialised services with women according to need as they progress through the perinatal service. Patterns of provision and advertising of services are local matters but similar patterns exist throughout England.

### Maternity Services: Greater London

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made provision for specialist perinatal healthcare in (a) the London borough of Haringey and (b) Greater London. [37848]

**Anne Milton:** The best measure of take-up of maternity services available is from the NHS maternity statistics. Details of hospital deliveries by ethnicity are in the following table. The NHS maternity statistics do not include details of socioeconomic status.

| Ethnic group           | Number of deliveries <sup>1</sup> | Percentage of total deliveries |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| White                  | 463,016                           | 77.6                           |
| Asian or Asian British | 65,782                            | 11.0                           |
| Black or Black British | 35,152                            | 5.9                            |
| Chinese and Other      | 21,853                            | 3.7                            |
| Mixed                  | 10,492                            | 1.8                            |
| Total                  | 596,295                           | 100                            |

<sup>1</sup> Deliveries where ethnic group of mother is unknown have been excluded.

Source:

NHS Maternity Statistics 2009-10, NHS Information Centre

Maternity services are available to women in Haringey via direct access or referral from a general practitioner (GP). Information about direct access to midwifery services is available on hospital websites and has been widely disseminated via children's centres, general practice and related services such as contraceptive and sexual health services. GPs are aware of local maternity services as well as the importance of early access, receiving regular training and updates from the maternity and obstetric teams through GP meetings and educational sessions. GPs discuss access to specialised services with women according to need as they progress through the perinatal service. Patterns of provision and advertising of services are local matters but similar patterns exist throughout England.

#### Midwives: Staff Numbers

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of midwife numbers in (a) Norfolk, (b) the East of England and (c) England. [38164]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Midwives in Norfolk are employed at either the Norfolk and Norwich University hospital

or the Queen Elizabeth hospital, King's Lynn. The numbers of midwives at the two hospitals are as follows:

#### Norfolk and Norwich University hospital

Establishment: 161.76 whole time equivalent (WTE) midwives.

Vacancies: 2.24 WTE fixed-term vacancies caused by secondments to other organisations

Unfilled vacancies: 1.07 WTE.

Three newly created specialist midwife posts are currently being advertised.

The current ratio of midwives to patients at Norfolk and Norwich University hospital is 1:32, which will improve once the small number of vacancies is filled.

#### Queen Elizabeth hospital, King's Lynn

Establishment: 72 WTE midwives

Vacancies: Two specialist midwives are being recruited.

Once the two specialist midwives have been recruited, the hospital anticipates it will meet the 1:30 ratio.

Information on the number of midwives in the East of England is shown in the following table. The table shows the starting staff in post as at September 2008, the target based on the local Birth Rate Plus (BRP) assessment and the current staff in post numbers as at December 2010. The table also shows the growth achieved so far and further growth required.

| Trust                                            | Staff in post, full-time equivalent (FTE) |                                                        |                                                             |                                                        |            |                                                                           |            |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                                                  | Staff in post FTE census 2008             | Required establishment FTE by November 2011 as per BRP | Current staff in post FTE as per the SHA monitoring returns | Growth actual between September 2008 and December 2010 |            | Growth required to achieve BRP target by November 2011 from December 2010 |            |
|                                                  | September 2008                            | November 2008                                          | December 2010                                               | FTE                                                    | Percentage | FTE                                                                       | Percentage |
| Norfolk and Norwich University hospital          | 149                                       | 216                                                    | 180                                                         | 31                                                     | 21         | 36                                                                        | 20         |
| Queen Elizabeth hospital                         | 62                                        | 75                                                     | 70                                                          | 8                                                      | 14         | 5                                                                         | 7          |
| James Paget University Hospital Foundation Trust | 68                                        | 72                                                     | 77                                                          | 9                                                      | 14         | n/a                                                                       | n/a        |
| East of England Total                            | 1,723                                     | 2,365                                                  | 2,054                                                       | 331                                                    | 19         | 311                                                                       | 15         |

Note:

None of the above figures are Department of Health-verified. Source: DoH census 2008 data sourced by East of England SHA and the SHA's own information.

The latest NHS Workforce census as at 30 September 2009 shows there 26,451 (20,236 FTE) midwives working in the national health service in England. The next NHS Workforce census showing the September 2010 figures will be published in late March 2011.

The number of midwives in training in 2009-10 is 2,482, which is a record level. The planned number of trainees in 2010-11 is 2,493 and we expect this level to be maintained into the future subject to further changes in the forecast birth rate and changes in the way services are delivered.

This will result in a sustained increase in new midwives available to enter the service over the next few years.

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacant places there were on midwifery courses in each of the last five years. [38162]

**Anne Milton:** This information is not collected centrally.

The nearest information we have available is the number of midwifery training places commissioned over the last 10 years.

The following table shows the number of national health service midwifery training places commissioned since 1999.

|         | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Degree  | 395       | 494     | 621     | 709     | 753     | 895     | 1,042   | 983     | 1,307   | 1,945   | 1,977   | 1,967   |
| Diploma | 620       | 604     | 525     | 724     | 716     | 744     | 517     | 540     | 412     | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Other   | 757       | 789     | 732     | 677     | 757     | 735     | 661     | 467     | 352     | 328     | 505     | 526     |
| Total   | 1,772     | 1,887   | 1,878   | 2,110   | 2,226   | 2,374   | 2,220   | 1,990   | 2,071   | 2,274   | 2,482   | 2,493   |

Source:

Quarterly Monitoring Returns.

### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Mr Watts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry on potential changes to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence as proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill. [38886]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Ministers and departmental officials meet frequently with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry and issues relating to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are often among those discussed.

### NHS Commissioning Board

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether an ophthalmic services specialist will be appointed to the proposed NHS Commissioning Board. [38184]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill sets out details about the membership of the NHS Commissioning Board.

The board itself will determine its own appointments but will include people with a range of skills and experience.

### NHS: Contracts

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of cancelling operating contracts for (a) 2011, (b) 2012, (c) 2013 and (d) 2014. [38450]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Records are not held centrally for all contracts entered into with other national health service bodies, private sector companies or the voluntary sector for the provision of goods and services in the NHS or estimates of future cancellation costs on these contracts. To collect this information from all local NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) would incur disproportionate cost.

All NHS trusts and the Department must report all abortive costs over £250,000 in value incurred in abandoned or scaled down projects in their annual report and accounts which are available locally.

### NHS: Finance

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the uptake of personal budgets and direct payments for the purposes of encouraging integration between care services. [38087]

**Paul Burstow:** The "Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens" sets the context for the future direction of adult social care in England. It states that councils should provide personal budgets, preferably as a direct payment, for everyone eligible, by 2013.

Reflecting the commitments in the vision, the Department has committed to various actions. The Department is planning to issue directions to councils later this year, to strengthen legislation requiring councils to make direct payments in respect of the person securing provision of a relevant service, where the conditions are satisfied, and with the person's consent. Building on this expansion, we want to make it possible to combine personal health budgets with personal budgets in the future, subject to the evaluation of the pilot sites in 2012.

Local government and the provider sector have produced the partnership agreement "Think Local, Act Personal" in January. The agreement, focusing on personalisation of services, consolidates lessons learned over the past three years within a new financial context that requires efficient, effective and integrated service delivery, including personal budgets, across health and social care.

In future, councils will take the lead role in drawing up joint strategic needs assessments, which will shape the commissioning of health, social care and health improvement services. This may include aligning funding streams locally, including personal health budgets and personal budgets.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he has provided for integration between health services and social care services since May 2010. [38088]

**Paul Burstow:** The Government have announced various policy and legislative changes to support integration between health and social care. The Department has made available a number of new funding streams to support the coalition programme commitment on integration, including as part of the 2010 spending review, which have been allocated to the national health service in order to support social care and improve joint working between the two systems.

Details about this funding have been set out in a letter from David Behan and David Flory to NHS and local authority chief executives, which can be found at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_123460](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_123460)

A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

The following table summarises the funding which has been allocated for joint working.



| Purpose                                                        | 2010-11<br>(£ million) | 2011-12<br>(£ million) | 2012-13<br>(£ million) | How the funding should be used                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Development of post-discharge support and re-ablement services | 70                     | 150                    | 300                    | To work with local authorities to develop local re-ablement capacity, according to local plans submitted to strategic health authority in December 2010. Funding may be transferred to local partners or pooled budgets. It is for local discretion the proportion of spend on the NHS and social care. |
| To support social care services                                | 162                    | 648                    | 622                    | Funding must be transferred to local authorities, to spend on social care services which also benefit health, primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities should jointly agree how the funding should be spent and the outcomes to be achieved.                                                    |

For 2013-14 and 2014-15, the health system has been allocated £1.1 billion and £1 billion respectively to support social care. Details of how this funding will be allocated will be announced in due course.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2011 reinforces the coalition government's commitment to integration and joint working. It sets out some specific areas where joint working with local authorities is important and where pooled budget arrangements should be considered. It sets out a requirement for NHS organisations to make progress on the National Dementia Strategy including the four priority areas set out in the implementation plan published in September 2010. Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy should also be considered, with PCTs pooling budgets to provide carers breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. An additional £400 million is being made available over four years for this purpose.

#### NHS: Overtime

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of overtime payments for (a) consultants, (b) surgeons and (c) other NHS staff in the most recent quarter for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [38104]

**Mr Simon Burns:** National health service staff earnings estimates are published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. The published information covers earnings of medical staff and only those non medical staff under Agenda for Change contractual arrangements. Reliable information on cost to the NHS of overtime payments for consultants, surgeons and other NHS staff is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

#### NHS: Reorganisation

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the future viability of NHS trusts which will become foundation trusts in cases where the trust would not have met the existing criteria of Monitor to do so. [38448]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The coalition government are committed to all national health service trusts achieving foundation trust status by April 2014. The requirements

trusts must demonstrate to achieve the foundation trust status will not be reduced in any way.

For those trusts who for some reason may not be financially or clinically viable as a stand-alone organisation, and thus unable to meet the criteria to achieve foundation trust status, action plans are being developed.

These plans may include organisational change, such as a merger or acquisition with another trust or foundation trust, where this will support the trust achieving foundation status, as part of another organisation, by April 2014.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely cost of redundancy payments following the proposed abolition of (a) primary care trusts and (b) strategic health authorities under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [38449]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government estimates the redundancy costs as £768 million for primary care trusts and £84 million for strategic health authorities. Fuller details are given in the "co-ordinating document" for the impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill, which is available at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH\\_123583](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583)

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

#### NHS: Training

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with stakeholder organisations on the potential effects of the (a) Higher Education (Basic Amount) (England) Regulations 2010 and (b) Higher Education (Higher Amount) (England) Regulations 2010 on the NHS Bursary Scheme; and if he will make a statement; [38210]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the NHS Bursary Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [38212]

**Anne Milton:** The Secretary of State for Health has had discussions with the Minister of State for Universities and Science and my officials have met with stakeholder organisations about the proposed changes to the funding arrangements for undergraduate education and the impact on students who are eligible for an NHS bursary. We

will continue to work together with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to understand the impact of the changes and consider if the NHS bursary scheme arrangements remain appropriate.

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to make an announcement on the NHS Bursary Review; and if he will make a statement. [38211]

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the existing NHS bursary arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [38581]

**Anne Milton:** The review of NHS student support considered the existing NHS Bursary Scheme arrangements and whether changes to the scheme are required. We plan to make an announcement on the outcome of the review in due course.

#### Obesity: Departmental Co-ordination

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with (a) the Secretary of State for Education and (b) the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the effect of activity levels on obesity in children. [38505]

**Anne Milton:** The Secretary of State for Health has met with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on 25 November 2010. Following on from this discussion the Department of Health agreed to provide up to £20 million over the next two years to support levels of participation in the School Games by primary schools, and to create further opportunities for those who are least active and to deliver important health benefits associated with physical activity.

#### Palliative Care: Drugs

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the NHS takes a systematic and safe approach to the prescribing of terminal care drugs. [37950]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Guidance for prescribers on the appropriate use of medicines for patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment is included in the British National Formulary, which is made available free of charge to national health service prescribers. This includes advice on the medicines that can be used for terminal care patients and the training that staff are required to undertake before administering them.

#### Plastic Surgery

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the (a) level of availability and (b) effects on NHS budgets of cosmetic surgery on the NHS in the most recent quarter for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [38055]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Very few, if any, purely cosmetic surgery treatments are undertaken on the national health service. The only information available at national level relates to the total number of treatments by plastic

surgeons, of which the vast majority will be for reasons of genuine clinical need. The information for the most recent available quarters is in the following table.

*Count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)<sup>1</sup> for consultants in plastic surgery<sup>2</sup>. Provisional data<sup>3</sup> for quarters ending June 2010 and September 2010 and full year 2009-10 (April to March)*

| <i>Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector</i> | <i>Count of FCEs</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Period                                                                                                   |                      |
| April-June 2010 <sup>3</sup>                                                                             | 63,318               |
| July-September 2010 <sup>3</sup>                                                                         | 65,275               |
| 2009-10                                                                                                  | 248,441              |

<sup>1</sup> FCE

A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

<sup>2</sup> Consultant main specialty

The specialty under which the consultant responsible for the care of the patient at that time is registered.

<sup>3</sup> Provisional data

The data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset; the data shown have not been adjusted to allow for this possible shortfall, which will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

#### Post-natal Depression

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women were diagnosed with post-natal depression in each year since 2000. [37851]

**Paul Burstow:** The majority of women diagnosed with post-natal depression will be treated in primary care. Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so reliable data are not available about the number of women with post-natal depression. However, the NHS Information Centre's mental health minimum dataset (MHMDS) focuses on adults accessing secondary mental health care. The following table shows the number of women who have been diagnosed with either post-natal mental health problems or post-natal depression in the MHMDS.

|         | <i>Mental disorders associated with the puerperium (commencing within six weeks of delivery) that do not meet the criteria for disorders classified elsewhere</i> | <i>Depression: postnatal<sup>1</sup>, postpartum<sup>1</sup></i> |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2006-07 | 267                                                                                                                                                               | 113                                                              |
| 2007-08 | 266                                                                                                                                                               | 113                                                              |
| 2008-09 | 247                                                                                                                                                               | 98                                                               |
| 2009-10 | 318                                                                                                                                                               | 101                                                              |

<sup>1</sup> Not otherwise specified.

Source:

MHMDS annual returns.

### Primary Health Care: North East England

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in the number of posts in primary care trusts and their successor bodies in the North East following implementation of his healthcare reforms. [38171]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government estimate that, on average across the country, around 60% of existing staff in primary care trusts and strategic health authorities would transfer to jobs in general practitioner consortia, the NHS Commissioning Board, and other bodies. We do not have a breakdown of the figures by region.

The full assumptions are described in the "co-ordinating document" for the impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill, which is available at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH\\_123583](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583)

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

### Public Health England: Finance

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the likely funding allocation to Public Health England in each of the first five years following its inception; [38846]

(2) what estimate he has made of NHS expenditure on areas which are to be the responsibility of Public Health England in each of the last 10 years. [38847]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are currently consulting on the functions and services to be funded through the public health budget and commissioning routes in 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health'. The responses to the consultation on functions and services will be important in helping determine the future budget for Public Health England.

The Department is working to establish baseline spending on activities that will be funded from the public health budget in the future. Building on the proposed commissioning responsibilities in the consultation document, early estimates suggest that current spend by the Department, its arm's length bodies, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts on areas that are likely to be the responsibility of Public Health England could be over £4 billion. However, this estimate is subject to further significant revision. In particular, as responses to the consultation on the responsibilities to be funded from the public health budget lead to revisions in the design of the service, the estimated spend and future budgets will be revised. Comparable data for earlier years are not available.

### Strokes: Outcomes

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his contribution of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 605, on the Health and Social Care Bill, what the evidential basis is for his estimate that 4,000 lives could be saved every year if NHS outcomes for stroke were as good as the European average; and if he will place in the Library a copy of such evidence. [38746]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Strokes: Health Services

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to extend the provisions of the Stroke Quality Standard to cover community-based rehabilitation, longer-term support and social care services for stroke patients. [38303]

**Mr Simon Burns:** It is for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to determine the content and scope of its stroke Quality Standard. It does so after a public consultation and within a remit set by the Secretary of State.

The stroke standard was developed with input from clinicians and patients. Details of the process NICE used can be found on the Institute's website at:

[www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards](http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards)

The current Health and Social Care Bill includes provision to extend NICE's role to cover social care when it is re-established.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that GP consortia are skilled in the commissioning of strategic stroke services. [38304]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The NHS Commissioning Board will support general practitioner consortia in their commissioning decisions. The board will provide leadership for quality improvement through commissioning. This will include setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with advice from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and in the case of stroke, the national stroke strategy, in a way that promotes joint working across health, public health and social care.

Furthermore, the Health and Social Care Bill provides for consortia to work collaboratively on commissioning by, for example, entering into lead commissioner and pooled budgetary arrangements.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to incorporate the main elements of the National Stroke Strategy into future guidance issued by the National Commissioning Board. [38305]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The NHS Commissioning Board will have a vital role in providing national leadership for driving up the quality of care across health commissioning, including stroke services. The board will do this by supporting general practitioner consortia in a number of ways including:

- publishing evidence based commissioning guidance and model care pathways building on the national stroke strategy and the recently published National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence quality standard for stroke as appropriate; and
- designing the Commissioning Outcomes Framework and the new quality premium.

It will be for the board to determine the details of its work programme and the content of commissioning guidance.



**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that the provision of stroke services remains a priority for the NHS following the implementation of his plans to reform the NHS. [38306]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Stroke remains a priority for the national health service and as such features in the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework.

Stroke also features in a number of domains of the NHS Outcome Framework. This is the mechanism by which the Secretary of State for Health will hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account when it is established.

These measures will ensure that tackling stroke and improving stroke care will remain firmly on the NHS's agenda.

## CABINET OFFICE

### EU Grants and Loans

**Mark Reckless:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to publish details of each UK project in receipt of over £25,000 of EU funds. [35600]

**Mr Maude:** There are currently no plans to bring forward specific proposals to publish details of each UK project in receipt of over £25,000 of EU funds. However we are currently arguing for the domestic principles of transparency, value for money and sound financial management to be applied at EU level.

In the interim, a Consolidated Statement on the use of EU funds in the UK is published annually. Indeed the 2008-09 financial year Consolidated Statement was laid before Parliament on 19 January 2011.

### Gross National Product

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of gross national product was accounted for by the (a) financial and (b) manufacturing sector in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [36591]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the proportion of Gross National Product accounted for by the financial and manufacturing sectors in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. [36591]

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has replaced Gross National Product as the main indicator of output of the economy. The figures requested are shown in the table below for the calendar years 2008 to 2010.

|                      | Contribution to total GDP |      | Percentage |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------|------------|
|                      | 2008                      | 2009 | 2010       |
| Financial Sector     | 7.0                       | 7.1  | 7.7        |
| Manufacturing Sector | 14.3                      | 13.3 | 12.8       |

## Public Bodies

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 315W, on public bodies, what consideration he gave to including (a) efficiency and (b) value for money as criteria to be applied in the review of public bodies. [37846]

**Mr Maude:** The first stage of the review process was to consider whether the functions currently carried out by public bodies should be delivered by government. Ensuring government do not undertake activities which are not needed must be the first step in delivering value for money. Reducing duplication of effort and simplifying structures, as this review is doing, are also key tenets of efficiency and value for money.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 827, on public bodies, how much more than £500 million a year he expects to save in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [37861]

**Mr Maude:** Departments are currently working through the estimated costs and savings related to this complex package of reforms with support from HM Treasury and Cabinet Office. These are the most significant reforms of public bodies for a generation and we need to ensure implementation is carried out effectively and systematically.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 828, on public bodies, what steps he plans to take to make the code for public bodies watertight. [37862]

**Mr Maude:** The Public Administration Select Committee in their report "Smaller Government: Shrinking the Quango State" make a number of recommendations on strengthening the rules relating to public bodies and lobbying. We will respond formally to the committee's recommendations, setting out our proposals in full, in due course.

## Public Sector: Procurement

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he has taken to encourage public sector bodies to give priority to local businesses in their procurement policies. [37778]

**Mr Maude:** To safeguard the public purse, procurers are required to seek value for money through fair and open competition. Through our membership of the European Union and as a signatory to international agreements, our contracting authorities are required to treat suppliers from Europe and various other countries on an equal footing with UK suppliers. This is a two-way street, however, as it gives our suppliers access to public procurement markets overseas.

The Government of course want UK companies, including our small businesses, to be successful in public procurement. To that end, I announced on 1 November a series of measures to make it easier for small firms to compete for government business. Details can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/plans-open-government-small-businesses](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/plans-open-government-small-businesses)

### Unemployment: Young People

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many unemployed young people aged 16 to 25 years there were in each region in each of the last 12 months; and what proportion of young people this represented in each such month. [38577]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many unemployed young people aged 16-25 years there were in each region in each of the last 12 months; and what proportion of young people this represented in each such month. (38577)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the levels and proportions of young people aged 16-24 years who were unemployed and resident in each government office region. Data have been provided for the most recent APS period, July 2009 to June 2010. APS proportions have been calculated using 16-24 economically active population.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Because the APS only provides an annual figure additionally Table 2 shows the number and proportions of young people aged 16 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in each government office region during the last 12 months up to the latest period available in December 2010. JSA proportions have been calculated using 16-24 resident population.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

*Table 1 Number and proportions of people aged 16 to 24 unemployed in each government office region*

|                          | July 2009 to June 2010 |                |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
|                          | Level (thousand)       | Proportion (%) |
| North East               | **47                   | 14.4           |
| North West               | *115                   | 13.4           |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | **87                   | 12.7           |
| East Midlands            | **66                   | 12.1           |
| West Midlands            | **87                   | 13.3           |
| East                     | **74                   | 11.7           |
| London                   | **119                  | 13.2           |
| South East               | **99                   | 10.4           |
| South West               | **67                   | 11.3           |
| Wales                    | *50                    | 13.7           |
| Scotland                 | *76                    | 12.4           |
| Northern Ireland         | ***23                  | 10.2           |

*Note:*

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

\* 0 ≤ CV < 5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

\*\* 5 ≤ CV < 10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

\*\*\* 10 ≤ CV < 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

\*\*\*\* CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

*Table 2 Number and proportions (%) of people aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in each Government office region*

|           | North East |     | North West |     | Yorkshire and the Humber |     | East Midlands |     | West Midlands |     | East   |     |
|-----------|------------|-----|------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|--------|-----|
|           | Level      | %   | Level      | %   | Level                    | %   | Level         | %   | Level         | %   | Level  | %   |
| 2010      |            |     |            |     |                          |     |               |     |               |     |        |     |
| January   | 28,085     | 8.4 | 64,395     | 7.4 | 51,145                   | 7.3 | 36,490        | 6.6 | 56,895        | 8.6 | 35,180 | 5.5 |
| February  | 27,950     | 8.4 | 64,820     | 7.4 | 52,175                   | 7.4 | 37,145        | 6.7 | 57,385        | 8.6 | 35,930 | 5.7 |
| March     | 26,800     | 8.0 | 61,925     | 7.1 | 50,015                   | 7.1 | 35,715        | 6.5 | 55,040        | 8.3 | 34,750 | 5.5 |
| April     | 25,050     | 7.5 | 58,580     | 6.7 | 47,690                   | 6.8 | 33,370        | 6.1 | 51,405        | 7.7 | 33,135 | 5.2 |
| May       | 23,590     | 7.1 | 55,195     | 6.3 | 45,220                   | 6.4 | 30,945        | 5.6 | 47,745        | 7.2 | 30,380 | 4.8 |
| June      | 22,995     | 6.9 | 52,610     | 6.0 | 42,065                   | 6.0 | 28,820        | 5.2 | 45,210        | 6.8 | 28,360 | 4.5 |
| July      | 23,320     | 7.0 | 53,495     | 6.1 | 42,480                   | 6.0 | 29,120        | 5.3 | 45,695        | 6.9 | 29,160 | 4.6 |
| August    | 24,040     | 7.2 | 55,505     | 6.4 | 43,430                   | 6.2 | 29,775        | 5.4 | 46,900        | 7.1 | 30,510 | 4.8 |
| September | 25,065     | 7.5 | 56,095     | 6.4 | 43,795                   | 6.2 | 30,045        | 5.5 | 47,775        | 7.2 | 30,480 | 4.8 |
| October   | 24,980     | 7.5 | 54,780     | 6.3 | 42,900                   | 6.1 | 29,100        | 5.3 | 46,455        | 7.0 | 30,110 | 4.7 |
| November  | 24,430     | 7.3 | 53,070     | 6.1 | 41,935                   | 6.0 | 28,255        | 5.1 | 45,490        | 6.9 | 28,950 | 4.6 |
| December  | 24,375     | 7.3 | 51,580     | 5.9 | 42,065                   | 6.0 | 28,635        | 5.2 | 45,140        | 6.8 | 28,250 | 4.4 |

|          | London |     | South East |     | South West |     | Wales  |     | Scotland |     | Northern Ireland |     |
|----------|--------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|--------|-----|----------|-----|------------------|-----|
|          | Level  | %   | Level      | %   | Level      | %   | Level  | %   | Level    | %   | Level            | %   |
| 2010     |        |     |            |     |            |     |        |     |          |     |                  |     |
| January  | 54,920 | 6.0 | 45,500     | 4.7 | 28,920     | 4.8 | 28,475 | 7.6 | 42,795   | 6.9 | 17,715           | 7.6 |
| February | 56,250 | 6.2 | 45,990     | 4.8 | 29,455     | 4.8 | 28,960 | 7.7 | 44,335   | 7.1 | 17,990           | 7.7 |

| 2010      | London |     | South East |     | South West |     | Wales  |     | Scotland |     | Northern Ireland |     |
|-----------|--------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|--------|-----|----------|-----|------------------|-----|
|           | Level  | %   | Level      | %   | Level      | %   | Level  | %   | Level    | %   | Level            | %   |
| March     | 54,935 | 6.0 | 44,085     | 4.6 | 27,930     | 4.6 | 27,875 | 7.5 | 43,335   | 7.0 | 17,805           | 7.7 |
| April     | 51,605 | 5.7 | 41,395     | 4.3 | 25,375     | 4.2 | 26,190 | 7.0 | 40,885   | 6.6 | 17,210           | 7.4 |
| May       | 49,265 | 5.4 | 37,255     | 3.9 | 22,990     | 3.8 | 24,070 | 6.4 | 39,360   | 6.3 | 16,925           | 7.3 |
| June      | 46,975 | 5.2 | 34,215     | 3.6 | 21,350     | 3.5 | 22,300 | 6.0 | 39,320   | 6.3 | 17,380           | 7.5 |
| July      | 48,825 | 5.4 | 34,555     | 3.6 | 21,675     | 3.6 | 22,895 | 6.1 | 42,230   | 6.8 | 18,505           | 8.0 |
| August    | 51,350 | 5.6 | 35,940     | 3.7 | 22,640     | 3.7 | 23,755 | 6.4 | 43,270   | 6.9 | 19,105           | 8.2 |
| September | 52,865 | 5.8 | 35,895     | 3.7 | 22,830     | 3.6 | 23,815 | 6.4 | 38,355   | 6.2 | 19,165           | 8.2 |
| October   | 61,775 | 5.7 | 34,845     | 3.6 | 22,555     | 3.7 | 23,290 | 6.2 | 37,345   | 6.0 | 18,255           | 7.8 |
| November  | 50,020 | 5.5 | 34,290     | 3.6 | 22,840     | 3.8 | 23,145 | 6.2 | 37,520   | 6.0 | 17,575           | 7.6 |
| December  | 47,830 | 5.3 | 33,820     | 3.5 | 22,700     | 3.7 | 23,375 | 6.3 | 38,290   | 6.1 | 17,345           | 7.5 |

Note:

Data has been rounded to nearest five.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

#### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to reply to questions 33786 and 33787 tabled on 11 January 2011 for ordinary written answer.

[37049]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 447W, and on 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 978W.



## Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 8 February 2011

### DEFENCE

#### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mary Macleod:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials of his Department who are allocated to work in Afghanistan are based in (a) the UK, (b) Kabul and (c) Helmand province. [38983]

**Mr Robathan:** Afghanistan is the Ministry of Defence's main effort and as such civilian posts across the Department and from all functional specialisms contain different proportions of Afghan-related business. The MOD does not compile numbers and to do so would involve disproportionate cost.

However, I can confirm that there are 10 MOD civilians in Kabul and 130 MOD civilians in Helmand Province. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five as numbers go up and down daily as people hand over and travel between locations in and out of theatre for work and leave.

#### Air Force: Cadets

**Mike Crockart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the level of financial savings arising from the reorganisation of the Edinburgh and South Scotland Wing Air Training Corps of the Air Cadets. [38194]

**Nick Harvey:** The proposed structural re-organisation of the Scotland and Northern Ireland region is part of a streamlining measure across the Air Cadet organisation. The proposed changes will amount to an annual saving of around £72,000 from financial year 2011-12 onwards. These changes will not directly impact on Air Cadet numbers or the opportunities available to cadets.

#### Armed Forces: Finance

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the funding required to achieve the capabilities set out in Future Force 2020. [38842]

**Dr Fox** [holding answer 7 February 2011]: We are continuing to develop and refine our Strategic Defence and Security Review implementation plans. Until this work is complete it is not sensible to speculate about the overall cost of the Defence programme.

However, as the Prime Minister made clear on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-826, his own strong view is that there is a requirement for year on year real terms growth in the Defence budget from 2015 to ensure that we realise the vision set out in Future Force 2020. We will also continue to meet the NATO target of 2% defence expenditure throughout the comprehensive spending review period.

### Armed Forces: Pay

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the financial effects on armed forces personnel of the recent changes to their allowances; [39080]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on morale and retention of armed forces personnel of recent changes to allowances and pay; [39081]

**Mr Robathan:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) set out a requirement to reduce expenditure on Service and civil service allowances amounting to some £300 million per year.

These changes are a necessary part of the Ministry of Defence's contribution to the overall Government's programme to reduce the UK deficit inherited from the previous Government.

The purpose of allowances is to reimburse service personnel for justifiable expenditure incurred either when on duty or as a result of the unique nature of service life. The current financial position has placed pressure on the level of allowances that are affordable. Whilst there will be some reductions and changes, appropriate allowances will continue in the future.

We have concentrated on ensuring, where possible, that no group is disproportionately affected, and have sought to mitigate effects by phasing in some changes by up to two years. The service chiefs of staff and their principal personnel officers have been fully engaged in this process.

Individuals who believe they will be placed in financial difficulty by the changes have been directed to inform their chain of command.

### Aviation

**Andrew Bridgen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on fees to air transport brokers in each of the last five years. [37182]

**Nick Harvey:** We do not pay separately for brokers' costs in chartering air transport. Our requirements for chartered aircraft are competitively tendered. Both air transport brokers and independent air carriers may decide to tender for the contracts. Should an air transport broker win the contract, under the rules of competing contracts, they are not required to identify the fee separately.

### Bangladesh: Military Aid

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department has offered to the government of Bangladesh in training the Bangladesh Rapid Action Battalion (a) in general and (b) in counter-terrorism techniques. [36780]

**Alistair Burt:** I have been asked to reply.

Our support to Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) to date has focused on the provision of human rights training and on improving their ability to conduct operations in a human rights compliant manner through the provision of training in forensic awareness, management

of crime scenes and recovery of evidence. We have provided training on the concepts of professional ethical policing, with an emphasis on the importance of respecting human rights, including the rights of witnesses, suspects and victims.

The aim of the Government's provision of training to RAB has been to increase the prospects of law enforcement and counter-terrorism operations being conducted in a manner properly respectful of human rights standards.

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the government of Bangladesh on the Bangladesh Rapid Action Battalion (a) in general and (b) on training. [36781]

**Alistair Burt:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government consider it important to address the issue of human rights rather than to ignore it. The Government therefore judges the improvement of law and order and counter-terrorism enforcement in Bangladesh to be a valuable contribution to protecting the safety and human rights of the general community both in Bangladesh and, to the extent that threats emanate from Bangladesh, in the UK.

During the recent visit of the Bangladeshi Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, raised UK assistance already provided to the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and emphasised the importance that the UK Government places on human rights. This is part of an ongoing dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh.

The aim of our programme with the RAB is to further improve their standards in accordance with our own values and legal responsibilities and to increase the prospects of law enforcement and counter-terrorism operations being conducted in a manner properly respectful of human rights standards.

#### Defence Estates: Finance

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department allocated to Defence Estates for the maintenance, repair and modernisation of the defence estates in financial year 2010-11. [38327]

**Mr Robathan:** In 2010-11, some £1.25 billion has been allocated to Defence Estates for the maintenance, repair and modernisation of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) estate in the UK and overseas.

This does not include those elements of expenditure on the Defence estate which are currently the responsibility of other parts of the MOD.

#### Departmental Pensions

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on his Department's expenditure of implementation of the proposed changes to public sector pensions. [39251]

**Mr Robathan:** The final report of the Independent Public Services Pension Commission is due to be published in advance of the Budget 2011. It is therefore not possible to make a proper assessment of the effects on the Department's expenditure until both the final report

has been received, and the Government decide what changes should be made in response to the Commission's report.

#### Ex-servicemen: Social Clubs

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of social clubs for ex-servicemen in each of the last 10 years. [38373]

**Mr Robathan:** This information is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

#### Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the future strategic tanker aircraft will be deployed in high threat environments; what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of equipping the aircraft with platform protection measures; and what estimate he has made of the time required to modify the aircraft to include platform protection measures. [37639]

**Nick Harvey:** The future strategic tanker aircraft may be required to fly into operational theatres when, based on military judgment, the threat levels have been sufficiently mitigated. All aircraft entering operational theatres will be fitted with the necessary defensive aid measures required to meet the threat level at the time. As options for additional platform protection measures are being considered as part of the current planning round it would be inappropriate to comment on cost or timescale at this stage.

#### HMS Ark Royal

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what process he has put in place to decide the future of HMS Ark Royal. [38127]

**Nick Harvey:** HMS Ark Royal will be disposed of in accordance with the Ministry of Defence's policy for disposing of large items of surplus defence equipment to maximise value to the taxpayer. As such, we are first looking at a sale to other governments for continued military use; this will shortly draw to a close. We are also exploring other options including selling HMS Ark Royal to a private commercial enterprise through a competition that would be carried out consistent with European Union regulations.

#### Radio Frequencies: Sales

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultation his Department undertook on its decision to release 500MHz of surplus Government spectrum to the market by 2013. [38733]

**Mr Vaizey** [holding answer 7 February 2011]: I have been asked to reply.

The Government announced in their National Infrastructure Plan published last October that they were looking to release at least 500MHz of spectrum currently held by the public sector over the next 10 years.

The Shareholder Executive and DCMS, working with other relevant Government Departments, are developing plans that build on the work already carried out by the MOD and others. We anticipate an initial overview of this 10-year project will be published by early April. This will be followed by more in depth analysis, including consultations with industry and other interested groups, on which spectrum bands could add most value to the economy and what would be involved in the release of those bands.

#### RAF Lossiemouth

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times search and rescue helicopters based at RAF Lossiemouth have been involved in operations related to North Sea offshore oil and gas installations and support aircraft and vessels in each of the last five years.

[38413]

**Nick Harvey:** Information is not held in the format requested, however, I am able to provide the following:

|      | Rigs | Support<br>vessels | Support<br>aircraft |
|------|------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2006 | 16   | 7                  | 0                   |
| 2007 | 11   | 8                  | 1                   |
| 2008 | 15   | 5                  | 1                   |
| 2009 | 9    | 4                  | 2                   |
| 2010 | 7    | 1                  | 0                   |

The data contained in the table have been drawn from the search and rescue database maintained by Defence Analytical and Statistical Advice.

The figures given for rigs are the call-outs that are categorised on the database as "Rig". The figures given for "Rigs" are the call-outs that are categorised on the database as being to oils or gas rigs; however we do not hold data specific to vessels and aircraft in support of oil and gas installations. We have drawn together figures for "Support vessels" and "Support aircraft" by analysing the narratives of call-outs and recording where the aircraft or vessel assisted is known to be in support of an oil and gas installation. Because these figures are based on extrapolating information from narratives rather than specific fields in our database, we cannot be as sure of their accuracy as we could if the data had a specific recording field.

#### RAF Middle Wallop

**Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of RAF Middle Wallop as a training facility for Army helicopter pilots.

[38201]

**Nick Harvey:** Training for Army helicopter and fixed wing pilots, alongside Army aircrew ground support training, will continue at Middle Wallop for the foreseeable future.

### CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

#### Gambling: Licensing

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of removing the need for licences for small charity events holding raffles or bingo games.

[38698]

**John Penrose:** In most cases it is already true that small charity event organisers do not need a Gambling Commission licence to offer raffles or bingo games. We are currently working with the Commission to look at a range of deregulatory measures that would benefit the third sector, and we hope to make an announcement later in the year.

#### Internet: Bullying

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to review the processes involved in removing harmful content from social networking sites in cases of cyber-bullying.

[37955]

**Mr Vaizey:** Ministers are aware of the significant concerns among parents and young people of cyber-bullying. We welcome increasing efforts of social networking sites, which are represented on our UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), to implement policies to help users protect themselves and report unacceptable behaviour, including cyber-bullying. We have no plans formally to review take-down processes, but UKCCIS continues to look at ways in which children can be kept safe online. If the hon. Member has a specific concern, I should be happy to look into it.

#### Sign Language

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to support users of British Sign Language.

[38851]

**John Penrose:** The Department has a comprehensive policy on its intranet for supporting colleagues who are deaf or hard of hearing. This policy includes guidance on the use of sign language interpreters. The Department currently has no staff who need to use British Sign Language.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department has provided for users of British Sign Language to access telecommunications facilities since May 2010.

[38852]

**Mr Vaizey:** Ofcom is carrying out a review of relay services and is considering the needs of British Sign Language users as part of that review. Government funding is available for use of video relay in the workplace (for people who have been assessed as needing it) under the Access to Work scheme.

As part of its implementation of the European Framework on Electronic Communications, Government are supporting British Sign Language users by pursuing the duty to promote the availability of terminal equipment suitable for disabled users through the e-Accessibility Forum, which draws together Government, industry and voluntary sector to explore and understand issues of e-accessibility and develop and share best practice across all sectors.



**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of including British Sign Language in Ofcom's universal service obligation. [38853]

**Mr Vaizey:** The revised Universal Service Directive provides for Ofcom to extend equivalence to other communication providers and not just universal communication providers. We propose to amend section 51 of the Communications Act 2003 to clarify Ofcom's power to impose a general condition in relation to equivalence. An amendment to the universal service order may be necessary depending on the outcome of Ofcom's consultation on the provision of relay services in the UK.

### Sports: Clubs

**Richard Graham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps he has taken to prevent the closure of community sports clubs; [38613]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to reduce the burden of administration on community sports clubs. [38815]

**Hugh Robertson:** I commissioned the Sport and Recreation Alliance to review regulatory burdens which affect sports clubs in the UK. The review will examine what prevents or hinders sports clubs and volunteers providing sport, and I anticipate them coming forward with a range of policy recommendations with the objective of cutting red-tape at grassroots level. The review is due to conclude in March.

The £135 million sport legacy strategy, Places People Play, launched in November, will be funded by lottery money and has been developed in partnership with Sport England, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the British Paralympic Association (BPA).

As part of the programme, the Inspired Facilities fund will see Sport England invest £50 million in creating a tangible legacy by improving up to 1,000 local sports facilities. Applications for funding will be open in April for the first of five £10 million funding rounds, with the final one in 2014-15. Community sports clubs will be eligible to apply for the fund.

In addition, the Iconic Facilities fund will support innovative and sustainable large scale multi-sport facilities' projects that will become beacons for grassroots sports. £30 million of capital national lottery funding will be invested by Sport England over three years. Applications for the first £10 million funding round were accepted until December 2010 with further funding rounds opening in autumn 2011 and 2012.

We would also encourage every club to consider registering as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC). The scheme has provided valuable funding to sports clubs which allows them to benefit from certain tax reliefs, similar to those normally given to charities.

**Richard Graham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many community sports clubs have closed in (a) Gloucester,

(b) the South West and (c) England in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [38941]

**Hugh Robertson:** Neither the Department nor Sport England hold the information in the manner requested.

### Telecommunications: EU Law

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how his Department plans to interpret the requirement in the EU Electronic Communications Framework for access to electronic communications services equivalent to that enjoyed by the majority of end-users. [39303]

**Mr Vaizey:** The revised provisions of the EU Electronic Communications Framework, which include revisions to the Universal Services Directive, provide for member states to empower national regulatory authorities (Ofcom in the UK) to specify, where appropriate, requirements to ensure that disabled end-users:

- (a) have access to electronic communications services equivalent to that enjoyed by the majority of end-users; and
- (b) benefit from the choice of undertakings and services available to the majority of end-users.

In order to fully implement this provision, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is proposing to make changes to section 51 of the Communications Act 2003 to clarify Ofcom's power to impose a general condition in relation to equivalence. In addition we will further analyse the responses to the recent Government public consultation on proposals to implement the revised framework, including Article 23a of the USD Directive on equivalence of access and choice for disabled end-users.

Ofcom are also undertaking a review on adaptive technologies including specific measures such as relay services for deaf and hard of hearing users.

### Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what statutory requirements there are for the provision of telecommunications services to deaf people; and what services are provided under such requirements. [39302]

**Mr Vaizey:** Specific arrangements which provide for disabled users of electronic communications networks are mandated under the Universal Service Order 2003 and section 67 of the Communications Act 2003 which empowers Ofcom to set Condition 15 ("Special Measures for end-users with Disabilities") of the Consolidated Version of the General Conditions (18 March 2010) on the providers of universal telecommunications services in the UK.

These statutory arrangements currently mandate the requirement of, for example, a text relay service and a priority fault repair service.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Females: Public Expenditure

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps the Government Equalities Office has taken to identify any disproportionate

effects on women of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and what steps she plans to take to ensure that any such disproportionate effects are mitigated. [38761]

**Lynne Featherstone:** All Departments are required to assess the impact on gender, race and disability of their policies. At the spending review the Treasury published an overview of the likely impacts on women, disabled people and ethnic minorities alongside the main spending review announcement—the first time this has been done. This shows that women will benefit from the protection to many key services that are used more extensively by them.

Throughout the spending review process the Government Equalities Office (GEO) has been in contact with spending teams and senior policy owners to ensure they consider the equalities implications of their policies. Departments will continue to consider the impacts of their policies as further details are worked out, publishing material where appropriate, and the GEO will continue to work closely with them to make sure equality considerations are embedded in policy development.

#### Males: Employment

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will take steps to bring about gender parity by increasing the number of men employed in her Department. [38586]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government Equalities Office follows the Civil Service Commissioner's Recruitment Code and all candidates are selected on merit.

#### Pay: Equal Opportunities

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what pay gaps there are in respect of (a) gender, (b) race and (c) disability among employees of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [38509]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

At 31 March 2010 (the most recent information available), the percentage pay gaps based on average hourly rates at the EHRC were as follows:

- (a) Gender: 4.88
- (b) Race: 9.39
- (c) Disability: 5.39.

#### Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much Barnett consequential funding the Government Equalities Office has provided to each of the devolved Administrations in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39377]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government Equalities Office has not provided any form of funding to the devolved Administrations.

### SCOTLAND

#### Railways: Construction

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with (a) ministerial colleagues and (b) the Scottish Executive on new high speed rail services for Scotland. [38862]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and the Scottish Government on a range of issues, including new high speed rail services for Scotland. The Government are committed to a truly national high speed rail network which will be delivered in phases. Every phase of this project will have benefits for Scotland in terms of cutting journey times.

### ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

#### British Waterways

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of canals and rivers owned by British Waterways are expected to achieve (a) Good Ecological Status and (b) Good Ecological Potential under the Water Framework Directive by 2015. [38312]

**Richard Benyon:** Nearly all British Waterways' water bodies are designated as heavily modified or artificial under the water framework directive, for which the objective is good ecological potential (GEP). In relation to the physical impacts caused by navigation, 82% of the water bodies owned by British Waterways are classed as being at GEP or better. This is not expected to change significantly by 2015. Most of British Waterways' canals are expected to meet the GEP target by 2027, in line with the objective set by the Environment Agency.

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many weirs British Waterways own without fully-functional all-fish species passes which comply with the provision of the Water Framework Directive. [38313]

**Richard Benyon:** British Waterways has 138 river weirs. 30 of them have fish passes, of which 13 cater for all species. British Waterways is working with the Environment Agency and private sector partners to identify funding for fish passes for another 20 weirs identified as a priority. Of the remaining weirs, some are so low that fish are already able to pass, some are at locations where there are alternative routes for them to pass, and others are on rivers where there are obstructions downstream that need attention first.

#### Business: Ethics

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has been represented at meetings of the EU High-Level Group of Member States Representatives on corporate social responsibility. [38662]

**Richard Benyon:** No. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills leads UK involvement in meetings of this group.

### Crayfish

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effect of signal crayfish populations on the native population of white-clawed crayfish; and if she will make a statement. [37680]

**Richard Benyon:** We are aware that signal crayfish have a profound impact on the native crayfish population, due to predation, competition, and the spread of disease. We are also greatly concerned that abundant signal crayfish populations also impact other native freshwater invertebrates, particularly soft-bodied species, thus altering the ecology of rivers. To help ensure the long-term survival of the native species, Natural England and the Environment Agency are supporting projects to establish refuge sites for white clawed crayfish. They are currently finalising a best practice/guidance document on decision-making in the placement and establishment of Ark sites, and other conservation requirements. Natural England is currently funding a project in south-west England involving a captive rearing programme at Bristol Zoo, the identification of Ark sites and reintroduction of white-clawed crayfish to a number of sites across the south-west.

Guidance on the creation of Ark sites has been drawn up by Buglife, and Ark site creation projects have been carried out by Buglife and the Peak District National Park, funded by Natural England through DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the effects on the white-clawed crayfish population of loss of habitat arising from flood defence and drainage programmes. [38066]

**Richard Benyon:** Natural England (NE) does not regularly monitor habitat loss outside of protected areas. As with other Schedule 5 species similarly protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in areas where white-clawed crayfish are present and work needs to be carried out, all practical measures must be taken to avoid or minimise impacts on the species. NE with the Environment Agency has produced guidance to help those planning work avoid or minimise impact on crayfish and improve habitats where possible. Depending on the type of project, various mitigation measures may be required with the aim being to ensure the long term survival of the resident breeding population. White-clawed crayfish inhabiting the affected area have to be temporarily removed by licensed crayfish handlers and are generally held until works have been completed. Crayfish habitat must be reinstated at the end of the works.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made on the effects on river ecosystems of trends in signal crayfish numbers; and if she will make a statement. [38075]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA is aware that research on signal crayfish shows that the species has an impact on both the physical nature of aquatic habitats (through burrowing and consequent siltation and erosion damage), and on a range of fauna and flora in rivers. The most noted impact is on the native white-clawed crayfish, but effects on other invertebrates and a number of fish species have been recorded. Clearly the scale of any impact will be increased as the signal crayfish population sizes increases in a given environment. A preliminary assessment of ecosystem health under the water framework directive indicates that up to 43 riverine water bodies (out of 5,818 in England and Wales) are likely to fail to achieve 'good ecological status' because of signal crayfish.

### Dairy Farming: Milk

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with dairy farmers on future contractual arrangements made with purchasers of their milk. [39279]

**Mr Paice:** I chaired the most recent meeting of the Dairy Supply Chain Forum on 20 January this year; Forum members include dairy farmer representatives.

I dedicated a large part of the meeting to discussing the EU Commission's proposals on future contractual arrangements made by dairy farmers with purchasers of their milk.

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which persons not employed by Government departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter her Department's premises. [39267]

**Richard Benyon:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

### Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance the Secretary of State has issued to Bassetlaw district council in respect of the exercise of its functions as regulator under regulation 64 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. [38603]

**Richard Benyon [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** Statutory regulation 64 guidance has been issued to all local authorities, including Bassetlaw district council, in the form of 82 Process and 10 Sector Guidance Notes which comprise the Secretary of State's views on what constitutes best available techniques for minimising pollution from different industry sectors. Also, a General Guidance Manual has been issued containing advice on procedural, and other matters. All the guidance can be found at:

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/industrial/las-regulations/guidance/>



### Fish Farming: Salmon

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the contribution of the farmed salmon industry to the UK economy. [38518]

**Richard Benyon:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 393W, to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Thomas Docherty).

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the sustainability of the farmed salmon industry. [38519]

**Richard Benyon:** The sustainability of farmed salmon is dependent on a number of elements concerning both the feed used and the local environmental impacts.

Fishmeal and fish oil are essential components in the diet of farmed salmon. Dependence on wild fish stocks as a feed source needs to be reduced in order for the industry to develop sustainably. Fish In - Fish Out ratios, comparing the weight of wild fish used as feed with the corresponding weight of farmed fish produced, have steadily fallen with the continuing substitution of non-marine ingredients for fishmeal and fish oil. By-products arising from fish and shellfish processing are also increasingly used for fish feed in the UK.

On the potential environmental impacts I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 394W, to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Thomas Docherty).

### Horticulture

**Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will conduct an environmental impact assessment of the trade in hardy ornamental nursery stock. [38199]

**Mr Paice:** Environmental impacts are routinely assessed when new policies are considered as part of the impact assessment process.

DEFRA has not identified any additional need for an environmental impact assessment on this trade.

### SSSIs

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many owners of sites of special scientific interest were fined for damaging the land under their supervision in (a) 2007, (b) 2008, (c) 2009 and (d) 2010. [38181]

**Richard Benyon:** To date, we have recorded six prosecutions:

2007: 1 (owner)

2008: 1 (owner)

2009: 1 (owner); 1 (occupier); 2 (third party)

2010: 0

All were fined, except the 2009 owner who received a conditional discharge plus costs.

### Pigs: Farms

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the factors affecting costs for producers in the British pig industry. [39143]

**Mr Paice:** Average farm business income on specialist pig farms is forecast to fall by around two-thirds in 2010-11. This is primarily a result of higher feed costs combined with lower prices for pig meat reducing output. For specialist pig farms, the falling value of trading livestock towards the end of the accounting year is also expected to lead to a considerable change in the year on year closing valuation.

In January, the European Commission agreed to introduce Private Storage Aid for pig meat and we are waiting to see what impact that has. We welcome the Commission facilitating discussions over the coming months on the future of the pig meat market and how it can become more sustainable and competitive.

### Public Contentment

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on measures of public contentment in each of the last 10 years. [38368]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA has published a set of life satisfaction or wellbeing measures as part of its Sustainable Development Indicators annually since 2007. The statistics are based on public attitude surveys undertaken in England. The measures include overall life satisfaction (on a scale from 0 to 10), and satisfaction with 11 selected aspects of life including standard of living, health, and accommodation.

In March 2010, when asked to rate their satisfaction with life the average response people in England gave was 7.5 on a scale from 0 to 10. The equivalent average rating for earlier years was 7.3 in 2007, 7.5 in 2008 and 7.4 in 2009.

The wellbeing measures were published in "Measuring progress: sustainable development indicators 2010", which is available at the following website address:

[www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/index.htm)

Further statistical results from the 2010 survey questions, and earlier surveys, are available at the following website address:

[www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/pubatt/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/pubatt/index.htm)

In November 2010 the Prime Minister asked the National Statistician to lead work on developing a national measure of wellbeing. The Office for National Statistics is expected to publish first results in July 2012. Further information is available at the following website address:

[www.ons.gov.uk/well-being/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/well-being/index.html)

### Rivers: Pollution

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reported pollution incidents in rivers involving the release of

farm-related products there were in each of the last five years. [38074]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency's National Incident Recording System (NIRS) records all reported pollution incidents from 2005 to present, but does not classify which incidents involve farm-related products.

The following table gives information for England and Wales for incidents where there was an impact on water, based on an approximation from the NIRS. This approximation includes incidents where the pollutant type was agricultural material or waste and incidents which occurred on agricultural premises.

|      | Incidents |
|------|-----------|
| 2005 | 864       |
| 2006 | 645       |
| 2007 | 670       |
| 2008 | 672       |
| 2009 | 615       |
| 2010 | 643       |

#### Grants: Audit Process

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the audit process for grants made in each of the last five years from her Department to (a) the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and (b) Natural England. [37013]

**Richard Benyon:** The Secretary of State has assessed that the audit regime in place for the last five years covering DEFRA and its arm's length bodies complies with professional standards. This audit regime has included testing the controls in place in relation to grant payments made to such bodies as Natural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The system is being reviewed to ensure that details of all payments to outside bodies can be easily analysed.

#### Sewage: Railway Track

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the risks to (a) the environment and (b) public health of rail carriages operated by train operating companies discharging sewage onto railway tracks. [38144]

**Richard Benyon:** The discharge of wastes from railway sanitary conveniences is regulated under the terms of an exemption from the need for an environmental permit. (The discharge is exempt only where the types and quantities of waste involved do not endanger human health or risk harm to the environment.)

Businesses carrying out exempt waste operations such as this are required to meet the terms of the exemption and register with the Environment Agency. The Agency is charged with carrying out appropriate periodic inspections of exempt waste operations to ensure compliance with the legislation, and takes appropriate enforcement action where necessary. In practice the Agency adopts an intelligence-based approach to target its resources. It inspects this particular type of exemption when it receives complaints.

The Government carries out regular reviews of exemptions from environmental permitting to ensure the controls are proportionate to the risk posed. I will also write to you in response to your letter on this matter.

#### Supermarkets: Competition

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with dairy farmers on the effects on the sector of introducing a food prices code adjudicator. [38820]

**Mr Paice:** I have had no discussions with dairy farmers specific to the groceries code adjudicator. BIS is leading on the Bill, with close co-operation from DEFRA. This is a wider Bill, affecting a number of sectors, not just dairy farming.

I do, however, chair the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, which enables dairy farmers to discuss key issues with processors and retailers. I am pressing the forum to address the trade deficit in dairy (currently £1.27 billion) and to work collaboratively towards greater industry sustainability. At the last meeting on 20 January 2011, I was also able to hear a number of viewpoints on the state and structure of the industry, including from representatives of dairy farmers.

We are introducing the groceries code adjudicator to enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice to prevent large retailers from transferring excessive risks or unexpected costs onto their suppliers.

#### Thrush Numbers

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of (a) waxwing, (b) fieldfare and (c) redwing thrushes. [38517]

**Richard Benyon:** Waxwing, fieldfare, and redwing all occur in highly variable numbers in the UK each year in the non-breeding season making the estimation of total numbers extremely difficult. The most recent assessment of numbers are as follows.

##### Waxwing

##### Non-breeding:

In a normal winter probably fewer than 100 individuals occur (based on data from the 1981-83 British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Winter Atlas). The current 2010-11 winter has seen a major influx of waxwings from Scandinavia and many thousands, possibly tens of thousands have been present in Britain. No precise estimates are available.

##### Breeding:

Does not breed in the UK.

##### Fieldfare and redwings

##### Non-breeding:

Numbers of fieldfares and redwings arriving in autumn from their breeding areas in Scandinavia vary between winters. The most recent estimates of numbers wintering in the UK was 720,000 fieldfares and 685,000 redwings (based on data from the 1981-84 BTO Winter Atlas). No more recent estimates are available.

**Breeding:**

Both fieldfares and redwings are extremely rare breeding birds in the UK. In most recent years there have just been single records of fieldfares attempting to breed, although in 2008 there were seven such records. Numbers of breeding redwings, although always rare, have shown a long-term decline, from a peak of approximately 110 pairs in 1984, to seven to 27 pairs in 2008 (the most recent year for which records are available).

**Written Questions: Government Responses**

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to answer question 37074, tabled on 25 January 2011 for answer on 31 January 2011. [39060]

**Mr Paice:** The question was answered on 3 February 2011; *Official Report*, columns 907-08W.

*Accommodation following a custodial sentence 2006-07 to 2009-10*

| <i>Financial year</i> | <i>Number of young people subject to a custodial sentence transferred to the community<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>Number assessed as living in suitable accommodation<sup>2</sup></i> | <i>Percentage in suitable accommodation</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 2005-06               | 5,574                                                                                                  | 4,756                                                                  | 85                                          |
| 2006-07               | 5,544                                                                                                  | 4,690                                                                  | 85                                          |
| 2007-08               | 5,442                                                                                                  | 4,708                                                                  | 87                                          |
| 2008-09               | 5,308                                                                                                  | 4,771                                                                  | 90                                          |
| 2009-10 <sup>3</sup>  | 3,991                                                                                                  | 3,694                                                                  | 93                                          |

<sup>1</sup> For all custodial sentences; data are not available broken down by DTO/other sentence type.

<sup>2</sup> 'Suitable accommodation' is defined according to the Children (Leaving Care) (England) Regulations 2001:

11 (2) For the purposes of section 23B(10), suitable accommodation means accommodation:

(a) which so far as reasonably practicable is suitable for the child in the light of his needs, including his health needs and any needs arising from any disability;

(b) in respect of which the responsible authority has satisfied itself as to the character and suitability of the landlord or other provider; and

(c) in respect of which the responsible authority has so far as reasonably practicable taken into account the child's -

(i) wishes and feelings; and

(ii) education, training or employment needs.

This legislation does not prescribe rules for deciding as to whether a particular type of accommodation is suitable or unsuitable, but allows for practitioners to make a professional judgement based on the individual needs and circumstances of each young person.

<sup>3</sup> English YOTs only

**Prisoners' Transfers**

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reason is for the time taken to transfer Michael Binnington and Luke Atkinson to an open prison. [38748]

**Mr Blunt:** Mr Binnington and Mr Atkinson have only recently been categorised as suitable for open conditions. A transfer was arranged but was cancelled due to population pressure at the receiving establishment. A further transfer will be arranged as soon as places become available.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons officials of his Department gave advice to the Governors of HM Prisons Edmunds Hill and Highpoint on applications for release under home detention curfew of Michael Binnington and Luke Atkinson; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence on the matter between

his Department, the National Offender Management Service and the Prison Service. [38749]

**Mr Blunt:** Decisions on home detention curfew (HDC) are for the prison governor in cases such as these. The Department provides a helpline service to prisons offering advice on the application of the legislative provisions and policy relating to the scheme. Copies of the request for advice and the advice given in relation to these applications have been placed in the House Library.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons he has declined to meet the families of Michael Binnington and Luke Atkinson. [38750]

**Mr Blunt:** The hon. Member has written to Ministers on a number of occasions making representations on behalf of Mr Binnington and Mr Atkinson in reference to their trial in Cyprus, extradition to that country and their repatriation to the United Kingdom to complete their sentence.

**JUSTICE****Prisoners' Release: Young Offenders**

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people aged (a) 12 to 15 and (b) 16 to 17 serving detention and training orders were provided with accommodation on release from custody by (i) local authority, (ii) local housing services and (iii) family members or friends in each of the last five years. [38760]

**Mr Blunt:** Local authorities have statutory responsibilities to accommodate young people in need of suitable accommodation through the Children Act 1989, the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and housing legislation.

As part of the National Indicator 46 (access by young people who offend to suitable accommodation), the Youth Justice Board collected data on the proportion of all sentenced young people released from custody who had suitable accommodation to go to. This indicator ceased to operate from 31 March 2010.

The figures for the last five years of data collection are presented as follows.



Ministers remain satisfied that all representations made to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), have been answered and the position of the Government has been explained in detail. Therefore, Ministers concluded that a meeting with Mr Binnington and Mr Atkinson's family would not be appropriate. Nevertheless, the hon. Member was offered a meeting with Ministers in correspondence of 2 December 2010, in view of her continuing interest in this case. That offer remains open.

### Prisons: Civil Disorder

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (a) disturbances and (b) riots (i) on the prison estate and (ii) in private prisons have been recorded since May 2010. [36250]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service records a variety of incidents that are related to disorder or disturbances at various levels of seriousness. Details of these are shown in the following table. The majority of disorder-related incidents are of a minor nature and are resolved quickly and professionally.

Since 1 May 2010 there have been six major disturbances, identified as major acts of concerted indiscipline at: HMYOI Cookham Wood, HMYOI Warren Hill, three related incidents at HMP and YOI Moorland, and one incident at HMP Ford. These prisons are all within the public sector.

Following each major disturbance a full investigation is carried out to ensure lessons are learned and best practise in managing incidents is shared across NOMS. Where perpetrators can be identified they are prosecuted.

Table 1: Breakdown of disturbance-related incidents in prisons in England and Wales from 1 May 2010 until 31 December 2010

|                                             | Public sector prisons | Private sector prisons |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Population (October 2010)                   | 75,590                | 9,569                  |
| Concerted indiscipline active <sup>1</sup>  | 27                    | 10                     |
| Concerted indiscipline passive <sup>1</sup> | 27                    | 5                      |
| Hostage                                     | 11                    | 2                      |
| Incidents at height <sup>2</sup>            | 270                   | 26                     |

<sup>1</sup> Concerted indiscipline is when two or more prisoners act together in defiance of a lawful instruction or against the requirements of the regime of the establishment.

<sup>2</sup> An incident at height is defined as any incident taking place over three feet from ground level and includes where prisoners have gained access to safety netting.

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

These figures may change should any further incidents relating to this period be identified and reported to NOMS.

To put these figures in context the following tables show the disturbance related incidents from January 2007 in both private sector and public sector prisons.

Table 2: Breakdown of disturbance-related incidents in prisons in England and Wales from 1 January 2007 until 31 December 2010 for private sector prisons

| Private sector prisons             | 2007  | 2008   | 2009   | 2010  |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Concerted active                   | 10    | 3      | 4      | 7     |
| Concerted passive                  | 7     | 5      | 4      | 6     |
| Hostage                            | 3     | 4      | 1      | 4     |
| Incident at height                 | 27    | 46     | 40     | 41    |
| Population (end of June each year) | 9,880 | 10,321 | 10,179 | 9,913 |

Table 3: Breakdown of disturbance-related incidents in prisons in England and Wales from 1 January 2007 until 31 December 2010 for public sector prisons

| Public sector prisons              | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Concerted active                   | 60     | 75     | 45     | 53     |
| Concerted passive                  | 47     | 54     | 44     | 38     |
| Hostage                            | 34     | 19     | 25     | 13     |
| Incident at height                 | 203    | 291    | 326    | 334    |
| Population (end of June each year) | 72,816 | 74,927 | 75,158 | 75,053 |

### TRANSPORT

#### A1: Hatfield Tunnel

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects (a) repair work to be concluded, (b) all lanes to be open and (c) the temporary speed limits to be removed from the Hatfield Tunnel on the A1. [38773]

**Mike Penning:** The refurbishment work, associated lane closures and temporary speed limits at the Hatfield Tunnel are scheduled to end in May 2011.

#### Cycling

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to promote the Cycle to Work Scheme (a) to employers and employees and (b) to other Government departments. — [36835]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport values the Cycle to Work Scheme and continues to support it through the provision of the Cycle to Work Scheme implementation guidance and advice to employers and employees.

The Local Sustainable Transport Fund is also open to local authorities to come forward with bids for sustainable travel packages that incorporate measures to encourage cycling, including to work.

#### Departmental Assets

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on taking account of social and community value when assessing the value for money of the proposed sale of Government assets for which his Department is responsible. [37893]

**Mike Penning:** The sale of assets for which the Department for Transport is responsible will be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account overall value for money, the policy implications and the impact on stakeholders as appropriate.

**Fares: Concessions**

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of extending the duration of the concessionary fares scheme consultation to ensure that all interested parties have the opportunity to contribute to it in detail. [35147]

**Norman Baker:** The consultation on the reimbursement of bus operators for carrying concessionary pass holders ran for a period of eight weeks from 17 September 2010 to 11 November 2010. We received a wide range of responses from travel concession authorities, passenger groups and bus operators.

Furthermore, the Department for Transport engaged closely with key stakeholders before the formal consultation and as the draft guidance was developed. The final reimbursement guidance was published on 29 November 2010 and reflected in its final form comments we had received.

**Kemble-Swindon Railway Line**

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received the GRIP stage 4 feasibility study on the Swindon to Kemble railway redoubling project; and whether he plans to publish the study. [37040]

**Mrs Villiers:** I have not yet received the GRIP stage 4 feasibility study on the Swindon to Kemble railway redoubling project from Network Rail, but expect to do so shortly. When it arrives, I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

**Southeastern: Kent Franchise**

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from what date Southeastern's integrated Kent franchise may be extended by a further two years. [37742]

**Mrs Villiers** [*holding answer 4 February 2011*]: The Southeastern franchise, agreed in 2005 by the previous Government, contains a provision for the contract to end on 31 March 2012, unless the train operator meets the performance targets set out in the Continuation Review.

The terms of the Continuation Review are set by the 2005 franchise agreement. If the train operator meets those targets, the Secretary of State is legally obliged to offer Southeastern a further two years operating the franchise, lasting up to 31 March 2014. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State has no discretion as to whether to make this offer or not. The Secretary of State expects to make an announcement on this matter in due course.

**Midland Main Line: Electrification**

**Margaret Beckett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce his plans for the electrification of the Midland Main Line from Bedford to Sheffield via Derby and Nottingham. [37298]

**Mrs Villiers:** We will continue to look at the costs and benefits of this scheme and it is a potential candidate for funding during Network Rail Control Period 5 (2014 to 2019).

**Motor Vehicles: EU Action**

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had at EU level on the effect on motorists of trends in the cost of motoring. [39252]

**Norman Baker:** The Secretary of State and other Department for Transport Ministers have regular formal and informal discussions with their EU counterparts on a wide range of issues. These discussions often touch, directly or indirectly, on the costs falling to motorists and the wider transport sector, particularly where these might be affected by legislative or other proposals.

**Northern Rail: Standards**

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the rate of (a) punctuality and (b) cancellation of services was for the Northern Rail service operating on the (a) Seaton Carew and (b) Hartlepool to Heworth lines in each of the last five years. [37106]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport does not hold this information in the form requested.

The hon. Member might like to consider contacting Network Rail or Northern Rail to see if they can give him information on this issue.

**Railways: Construction**

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish the (a) start and end dates and (b) questions for the High Speed 2 consultation. [37782]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** In my oral statement to the House on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1201-03, I said that I expected the consultation to begin in February this year. I expect it to last until July. The consultation questions will be published at the launch of the consultation.

**Railways: Franchising**

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what consultation will be required with disabled passenger groups before changes to rail services under new franchises; [35953]

(2) what consultation will be required with local passenger groups before changes to rail services under new franchises; [35954]

(3) what arrangements are in place to ensure that the views of passengers are taken into account in the rail franchise bidding process. [35998]

**Mrs Villiers:** The views of passengers and passenger representatives, including passengers with disabilities, are sought by the Department for Transport during the development of the specification that is issued to franchise bidders.

### Railways: Overcrowding

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria will be used to determine which new rail franchises will be required to manage crowding levels. [35949]

**Mrs Villiers:** A significant criterion will be the type of franchise. For non-commuter franchises, the bidding process will provide an opportunity to take account of strategies on capacity and crowding. For commuter services, we expect obligations on crowding, and associated mechanisms, to be developed as we re-let the relevant franchises, reflecting the circumstances specific to the operations in question.

### Railways: Vandalism

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reported instances of vandalism on the rail network there were in the last five years. [35435]

**Mrs Villiers:** 38,296 vandalism offences were recorded by British Transport police (BTP) in England and Wales during the last five years.

### Southeastern

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail carriages operated by Southeastern are (a) in service and (b) under repair. [38287]

**Mrs Villiers:** Maintenance of rolling stock is an issue for the train operator to consider and manage according to its rolling stock leasing arrangements. The Department for Transport does not hold information relating to how many trains are in service or in repair at particular points in time.

### Speed Limits: Fines

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues to police forces on circumstances in which motorists found to have exceeded speed limits are offered the option of a safer driving course in lieu of a fixed penalty. [37709]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Transport does not issue guidance to the police about courses offered to drivers as an alternative to a fixed penalty for a speeding offence. Guidance about the criteria for offering courses is issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). Operational decisions are for individual police forces.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness in reducing speeding by motorists of offering those convicted of speeding offences the option of attending a safer driving course in lieu of a fixed penalty. [37710]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Transport has published two road safety research reports assessing the effectiveness of speed awareness courses: 'Monitoring Speed Awareness Courses: Baseline Data Collection'

(September 2010) and 'Effective Interventions for Speeding Motorists' (March 2006). These reports are available on the Department's website.

### Transport: Business

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to engage with businesses in order to promote active travel. [37719]

**Norman Baker [holding answer 1 February 2011]:** The recently published Local Transport White Paper 'Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon' outlines the Government's strategy to encourage more sustainable transport choices, including active travel.

Alongside this, the Government have announced a £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund for local authorities to bid for funding for sustainable travel packages, which could include active travel schemes. Bids from authorities working in partnership with their local communities and businesses will be especially welcome. The Department also funds the National Business Travel Network, which provides guidance and resources to encourage business to adopt more sustainable travel measures, and continues to support the Cycle to Work scheme and guarantee.

### Tyres: Insurance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with insurance companies on winter tyres. [38865]

**Norman Baker:** There have been no discussions with insurance companies on winter tyres. The use of winter tyres and motor insurance is an issue for the insurance industry.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Age UK

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the conclusions and recommendations of the Age UK report, 'Invisible but Invaluable'. [37758]

**Maria Miller:** We recognise that some pensioners who are also carers currently have to claim carer's allowance in order to get the additional amount for caring included in their pension credit, even if carer's allowance would not be payable. We are looking at ways to make it simpler for carers to claim the additional amount in pension credit. In designing any revised test for the award of the additional amount we need to ensure that resources are targeted at those most in need and it is therefore important that we use an appropriate test for those who have caring responsibilities.

Carer's allowance is available to carers of state pension age but, due to the overlapping benefits rule, it cannot be paid to a carer who is receiving the same amount or more from state pension.

The Government are currently considering whether changes to carer's allowance will be necessary to take account of the introduction of universal credit and provide clearer, more effective support for carers.



**Children: Maintenance**

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to set the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission a target for collection of arrears. [37617]

**Maria Miller:** The current arrears position has accumulated over the 17 year life of the Child Support Agency.

The Government have established a panel of independent debt experts to look at this issue and provide advice on

how arrears of child maintenance might be dealt with most effectively in the long-term.

**Disability Living Allowance**

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of working-age people by (a) sex, (b) age group and (c) disability in receipt of the lowest care component of disability living allowance. [39132]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is contained in the following tables.

*Working age disability living allowance female recipients of lower care component by main disabling condition and age, May 2010 Great Britain and abroad*

|                           | All working age | 16-17 | 18-24  | 25-34  | 35-44  | 45-54  | 55-59  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total                     | 271,200         | 2,300 | 14,200 | 28,900 | 62,200 | 98,000 | 65,600 |
| Arthritis                 | 54,400          | 100   | 400    | 2,100  | 7,700  | 22,400 | 21,700 |
| Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease | 29,600          | 300   | 1,200  | 3,200  | 7,300  | 10,900 | 6,900  |
| Blindness                 | 8,600           | 100   | 500    | 1,100  | 2,300  | 2,700  | 1,900  |
| Stroke Related            | 6,100           | 1     | 200    | 400    | 1,300  | 2,500  | 1,600  |
| Learning Difficulty       | 16,800          | 500   | 4,100  | 4,300  | 3,800  | 2,900  | 1,200  |
| Mental Health Causes      | 52,400          | 300   | 3,100  | 9,000  | 14,900 | 17,700 | 7,400  |
| Epilepsy                  | 2,100           | 1     | 500    | 300    | 500    | 500    | 200    |
| Deafness                  | 3,700           | 1     | 500    | 700    | 700    | 1,100  | 500    |
| Malignant Disease         | 6,200           | 1     | 200    | 300    | 1,100  | 2,700  | 1,900  |
| Chest Disease             | 3,100           | 1     | 1      | 100    | 300    | 1,200  | 1,500  |
| Back Ailments             | 32,200          | 1     | 200    | 1,600  | 8,200  | 13,500 | 8,700  |
| Heart Disease             | 3,400           | 1     | 100    | 100    | 500    | 1,300  | 1,400  |
| Parkinson's Disease       | 500             | 1     | 1      | 1      | 100    | 200    | 100    |
| Diabetes Mellitus         | 2,700           | 200   | 300    | 200    | 300    | 900    | 700    |
| Renal Disorders           | 1,100           | 1     | 100    | 200    | 200    | 400    | 300    |
| AIDS                      | 400             | 1     | 1      | 1      | 200    | 200    | 1      |
| Skin Disease              | 1,800           | 100   | 200    | 200    | 400    | 600    | 400    |
| Frailty                   | 1               | 1     | 1      | 1      | 1      | 1      | 1      |
| Multiple Sclerosis        | 6,300           | 1     | 100    | 800    | 1,800  | 2,300  | 1,300  |
| Other                     | 39,600          | 600   | 2,500  | 4,300  | 10,500 | 14,000 | 7,800  |

*Working age disability living allowance male recipients of lower care component by main disabling condition and age, May 2010 Great Britain and abroad*

|                           | All working age | 16-17 | 18-24  | 25-34  | 35-44  | 45-54  | 55-59  | 60-64  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total                     | 294,300         | 4,500 | 19,900 | 29,600 | 51,900 | 77,200 | 47,000 | 64,100 |
| Arthritis                 | 40,000          | 100   | 100    | 600    | 3,200  | 9,700  | 10,000 | 16,400 |
| Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease | 29,100          | 300   | 1,400  | 2,600  | 5,700  | 8,200  | 4,800  | 6,100  |
| Blindness                 | 12,000          | 100   | 900    | 1,400  | 2,300  | 3,400  | 1,600  | 2,400  |
| Stroke Related            | 10,300          | 1     | 100    | 400    | 1,100  | 2,600  | 2,100  | 3,900  |
| Learning Difficulty       | 30,000          | 1,800 | 7,700  | 7,300  | 5,100  | 4,400  | 2,100  | 1,600  |
| Mental Health Causes      | 55,200          | 400   | 4,200  | 9,200  | 14,600 | 15,400 | 6,000  | 5,300  |
| Epilepsy                  | 2,400           | 1     | 100    | 400    | 600    | 700    | 300    | 300    |
| Deafness                  | 3,800           | 100   | 400    | 600    | 600    | 1,100  | 500    | 400    |
| Malignant Disease         | 3,500           | 1     | 100    | 100    | 400    | 800    | 600    | 1,300  |
| Chest Disease             | 5,000           | 1     | 1      | 1      | 200    | 700    | 1,100  | 2,900  |
| Back Ailments             | 35,900          | 1     | 100    | 900    | 5,700  | 12,300 | 7,300  | 9,600  |
| Heart Disease             | 9,400           | 1     | 100    | 100    | 300    | 2,100  | 2,400  | 4,400  |
| Parkinson's Disease       | 1,200           | 1     | 1      | 1      | 100    | 200    | 300    | 600    |
| Diabetes Mellitus         | 4,000           | 300   | 300    | 100    | 300    | 1,000  | 700    | 1,200  |
| Renal Disorders           | 1,300           | 100   | 1      | 100    | 300    | 400    | 100    | 200    |
| AIDS                      | 1,100           | 1     | 1      | 100    | 400    | 500    | 1      | 100    |
| Skin Disease              | 1,400           | 100   | 200    | 100    | 200    | 400    | 200    | 200    |
| Frailty                   | 1               | 1     | 1      | 1      | 1      | 1      | 1      | 1      |
| Multiple Sclerosis        | 2,500           | 1     | 1      | 200    | 800    | 700    | 400    | 400    |
| Other                     | 46,200          | 1,200 | 3,900  | 5,100  | 10,100 | 12,500 | 6,600  | 6,700  |

<sup>1</sup> Denotes nil or negligible.

*Notes:*

1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total by the application of a single rating factor therefore subtotals, based on uprated 5% data may differ from 100% data because of sampling variation in the 5% sample.

2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

3. Figures of 500 and under are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

4. Main Disabling Condition

Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded. "Other" includes 25 medical conditions, including "Obesity" from February 2010 (for claims to benefit from October 2008 onwards). Previously, "Obesity" was included within "Mental Health Causes".

5. Working age restricts the analysis to males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

6. State Pension Age

The age at which women reach State Pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients.

7. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of working age people in receipt of the lowest care component of disability living allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [39133]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is contained in the following table.

*Disability living allowance recipients of working age with lower rate care component, May 2010*

|                          | Number  |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Great Britain and abroad | 571,760 |

*Notes:*

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

3. Working age restricts the analysis to males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

4. State pension age: The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients.

5. Data are published at

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many items of correspondence his Department has received in support of the proposal to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance from those in residential care homes. [39134]

**Maria Miller:** The proposal to cease payment of the mobility component of disability living allowance after 28 days for those people in residential care, is subject to consultation and the responses will be analysed after the consultation closes on 14 February 2011.

#### Disability Living Allowance: Parents

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to allow parents whose children are in hospital for longer than 84 days to claim disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [36003]

**Maria Miller:** Payment of disability living allowance and carers allowance continues to be made to children under 16 years in a hospital or a similar institution for the longer period of 84 days to avoid terminating payment of benefit for relatively short periods in hospital.

Whereas those aged 16 and over retain payment of disability living allowance for 28 days, under 16s have a longer period of 84 days in recognition of the special needs that they may have for support from their parents while they are adjusting to hospital life.

To leave benefit in payment indefinitely would mean that the Government were making provision twice for the same basic need, which would not be an effective use of taxpayers' money.

#### Employment

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of (a) incapacity benefit, (b) income support and (c) severe disablement allowance ceased receiving benefits and moved into employment of 16 hours a week or more in each quarter since 1 February 2009. [37193]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is not available.

#### Employment and Support Allowance

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the limitation of contributory employment and support allowance to one year will apply to every new claim for the benefit; and whether any new claims will be linked to previous claims. [37191]

**Maria Miller:** As part of the spending review announcement, we propose to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group. All other groups claiming employment and support allowance are not affected by this measure.

Subject to passage of the relevant legislation, from April 2012, a time limit of one year is to apply to all claims for contributory employment and support allowance who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group. New claims may link to previous claims where the previous claim was paid for less than one year.

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the finding in paragraph 3, page 3 of the summary of research report No. 631, Employment and Support Allowance: Early implementation experiences of customers and staff. [37329]

**Maria Miller:** The work capability assessment (WCA) is used to determine eligibility for employment and support allowance. It is based on the principle that a health condition or disability should not automatically be regarded as a barrier to work. In March 2010, a department-led review of the WCA found that generally it is accurately identifying individuals for the right support. Additionally, Professor Harrington as part of his second Independent Review of the WCA will be examining in detail the working of the WCA.

Through the Work programme and associated Jobcentre Plus employment support, we will deliver a much more

flexible service to disabled customers and those with health conditions, whatever benefit they claim. Advisers will be free to assess customers' individual needs and offer the support they see fit. We will incentivise Work programme providers to focus their resources on our hardest to help customers, including those with health conditions.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many cases his Department has reversed employment and support allowance decisions on appeal on the basis of the medical assessment in the latest year for which figures are available. [37696]

**Maria Miller:** The following table provides information regarding the number of people who appeal the decision to find them fit for work following their initial work capability assessment. The number of appeals found in favour of the appellant to date is shown in the column 'Decision in favour of appellant'.

*Work capability assessment appeals heard on 'fit for work' decision (initial assessments only)*

| Month of claim start | Fit for work | Appeals heard (to date) | Percentage fit for work with an appeal heard (to date) | Decision in favour of appellant | DWP decision upheld | Percentage Decision in favour of appellant | Percentage DWP decision upheld |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| October 2008         | 3,600        | 1,500                   | 41                                                     | 600                             | 900                 | 40                                         | 60                             |
| November 2008        | 17,500       | 7,200                   | 41                                                     | 2,800                           | 4,400               | 40                                         | 60                             |
| December 2008        | 15,200       | 6,400                   | 42                                                     | 2,700                           | 3,800               | 41                                         | 59                             |
| January 2009         | 21,000       | 8,900                   | 42                                                     | 3,600                           | 5,300               | 40                                         | 60                             |
| February 2009        | 19,800       | 8,100                   | 41                                                     | 3,300                           | 4,800               | 41                                         | 59                             |
| March 2009           | 23,500       | 9,400                   | 40                                                     | 3,800                           | 5,500               | 41                                         | 59                             |
| April 2009           | 21,800       | 8,300                   | 38                                                     | 3,400                           | 4,900               | 41                                         | 59                             |
| May 2009             | 22,000       | 8,000                   | 36                                                     | 3,200                           | 4,800               | 40                                         | 60                             |
| June 2009            | 22,700       | 7,600                   | 33                                                     | 3,100                           | 4,500               | 41                                         | 59                             |
| July 2009            | 22,800       | 7,100                   | 31                                                     | 2,700                           | 4,300               | 39                                         | 61                             |
| August 2009          | 20,400       | 5,600                   | 28                                                     | 2,200                           | 3,500               | 39                                         | 61                             |
| September 2009       | 21,800       | 5,300                   | 24                                                     | 2,000                           | 3,300               | 37                                         | 63                             |
| October 2009         | 21,200       | 4,100                   | 19                                                     | 1,400                           | 2,600               | 35                                         | 65                             |
| November 2009        | 20,500       | 2,800                   | 14                                                     | 900                             | 2,000               | 31                                         | 69                             |
| Total                | 273,900      | 90,300                  | 33                                                     | 35,800                          | 54,600              | 40                                         | 60                             |

The table shows data on employment and support allowances claims up to the end of November 2009 (the earliest month at which we have sufficient volumes of heard appeals) where the person claiming has been found fit for work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by the Tribunals Service by the end of September 2010. These are the latest data available from the Tribunals Service.

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard, particularly for the most recent cohorts of employment and support allowance claims, as can be observed from the declining percentage of people found fit for work who appeal in Table 3. These figures should continue to be treated as emerging findings and not final at this stage.

This information is published by the Department on its website, and is updated quarterly. It is available at:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa\\_wca](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca)

### Housing Benefit

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to pay local housing allowance directly to landlords if directed to do so by tenants. [33821]

**Steve Webb:** We continue to support the principle that tenants in the private rented sector should be responsible for managing their rental payments rather than having the choice of having it paid to their landlord. There are safeguards in place so that housing benefit can be paid to the landlord if the tenant is unable or unlikely to pay their rent. Benefit is also paid direct to the landlord if the tenant is in arrears by eight weeks' rent.

From April 2011 we are widening local authority discretion to pay housing benefit direct to the landlord only if it would help the customer secure a new tenancy or remain in their current home at a reduced rent. We will work closely with local authorities to ensure this provision is used in very specific circumstances where landlords are reducing rents to a level that is affordable for customers.



### Housing Benefit: Medical Examinations

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of extending the time between medical assessment for people with severe illnesses and disabilities and claiming discretionary housing benefit. [34022]

**Maria Miller:** Local authorities can make discretionary housing payments to people who are entitled to housing benefit or council tax benefit where the local authority considers that the person concerned is in need of further help with their housing costs. There are no other prescribed conditions of entitlement or resources tests.

### Poverty

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of (a) women and (b) men (i) aged between 50 and 59 years and (ii) above the state pension age who are living in poverty. [39203]

**Steve Webb:** Estimates of poverty are published in the households below average incomes series, which uses Family Resources Survey data and the latest year for which figures are available is 2008-09.

Poverty estimates are published for those below 60% contemporary median income, on both before and after housing measures. Both measures are included in response to the question but it should be noted that working age poverty estimates are typically quoted on a before housing cost basis whereas the most commonly used measure of pensioner poverty uses incomes after housing costs. Measuring income on an after housing costs basis is appropriate, as two thirds of pensioners own their property outright and so face lower housing costs to meet from their current income. Considering pensioners' incomes compared to others after deducting housing costs allows for more meaningful comparisons of income between working age people and pensioners, and between pensioners over time.

Table 1: Males and females aged between 50 and 59 years inclusive in households below 60% of median income in 2008-09

|                | Number below 60% of median income (million) |                     | Percentage below 60% of median income |                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                | Before housing costs                        | After housing costs | Before housing costs                  | After housing costs |
| All aged 50-59 | 1.2                                         | 1.4                 | 16                                    | 19                  |
| Men            | 0.6                                         | 0.7                 | 16                                    | 19                  |
| Women          | 0.6                                         | 0.7                 | 17                                    | 19                  |

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Table 2: Males and females above state pension age in households below 60% of median income in 2008-09

|                            | Number below 60% of median income (million) |                     | Percentage below 60% of median income |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                            | Before housing costs                        | After housing costs | Before housing costs                  | After housing costs |
| All over state pension age | 2.3                                         | 1.8                 | 20                                    | 16                  |
| Men                        | 0.8                                         | 0.6                 | 18                                    | 14                  |

Table 2: Males and females above state pension age in households below 60% of median income in 2008-09

|       | Number below 60% of median income (million) |                     | Percentage below 60% of median income |                     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
|       | Before housing costs                        | After housing costs | Before housing costs                  | After housing costs |
| Women | 1.5                                         | 1.2                 | 22                                    | 17                  |

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

2. The estimates presented here are for the United Kingdom.

3. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.

6. Proportions of working age people and pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

7. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.

8. The Government's preferred measures of low income for pensioners are based on incomes measured after housing costs. Measuring income on an after housing costs basis is appropriate, as two thirds of pensioners own their property outright and so face lower housing costs to meet from their current income while still deriving value from their home. This is different to the current working age population and to the situation for pensioners in the past. Considering pensioners' incomes compared to others after deducting housing costs allows for more meaningful comparisons of income between working age people and pensioners, and between pensioners over time.

9. The answer excludes men aged 60-64 since they are not defined as being above state pension age nor are in the aged 50-59 group. However, table 3 (as follows) provides information for this group.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Table 3: Males aged 60-64 inclusive in households below 60% of median income in 2008-09

|                | Number below 60% of median income (million) |                     | Percentage below 60% of median income |                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                | Before housing costs                        | After housing costs | Before housing costs                  | After housing costs |
| Men aged 60-64 | 0.3                                         | 0.4                 | 19                                    | 20                  |

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of in-work poverty of reductions in the levels of local authority budgets. [39205]

**Steve Webb:** The Government believe that work is the best route out of poverty for most people. We are introducing reforms over the next two Parliaments, replacing the current complex system of means-tested working-age benefits and tax credits with the universal credit, an integrated payment that will ensure work always pays.

Local authorities are independently elected and autonomous bodies. They are largely independent of central Government and are directly accountable to their electorates. It is for local authorities to decide how to set and spend their budgets, taking account of their responsibilities and duties, and to assess, where appropriate, the impact of budgetary changes.

### Poverty: Disability

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of undertaking a multi-dimensional assessment of the level of costs incurred by people with disabilities and its effects on levels of poverty. [37749]

**Maria Miller:** The Government are absolutely committed to supporting disabled people, to improving the quality of life of those facing disadvantage, and to tackling poverty by addressing the causes driving it.

We know that disabled people face additional costs to leading full and active lives and that these costs are based on a wide range of factors. Personal independence payment, like DLA, will continue to provide a contribution towards these costs. At the heart of the new benefit will be a new, fairer, more objective assessment of individual need, and we are consulting on what information we should take into account before determining eligibility for the benefit.

The assessment will consider an individual's ability to carry out everyday activities and participate in society. We consider it reasonable to assume that those people who are least able to participate in society because of a disability are likely, as a rule, to incur greater costs. The new assessment should therefore allow us to prioritise spend to those who face the greatest challenge and expense. As we implement the assessment we will consider the extent to which it accurately meets these aims.

### Social Security Benefits: Electoral Register

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will discuss with the Deputy Prime Minister the potential effects on the completeness of the electoral register of requiring benefits claimants to be registered on the electoral register before being eligible for welfare benefits. [37786]

**Maria Miller:** Such a measure is not under consideration as it is likely that it would be successfully challenged under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European convention on human rights (ECHR).

### Social security Benefits: Glasgow

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have successfully claimed industrial injuries disability benefit for osteoarthritis in Glasgow Central constituency in each of the last three years. [39137]

**Maria Miller:** Osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners, and osteoarthritis of the hip in farmers are both included within the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme.

We do not have information on the numbers of successful claims for either disease at constituency level, but can provide the numbers of successful claims for osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners at the national level. The number of farmers paid benefit for osteoarthritis of the hip is not currently available.

Since the addition of osteoarthritis of the knee to the list of prescribed industrial diseases on 13 July 2009, 18,605 customers received an award of, or an increase in, industrial injuries disablement benefit.

This information is based on an informal count by the Jobcentre Plus offices dealing with Industrial injuries disablement benefit. This information will be published in due course.

### Voluntary Organisations: Finance

**Peter Aldous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 798W, on voluntary organisations: finance, what guidance he has made available to individuals or organisations wishing to provide services on a voluntary basis. [39207]

**Chris Grayling:** To date the Department has been offering guidance to groups and individuals wishing to provide a service on a voluntary basis in the following ways:

#### Work Together

Through the delivery of Work Together, Jobcentre Plus is encouraging unemployed people to consider volunteering as a way of improving their employment prospects while they are looking for work.

Unemployed people who are interested in volunteering will be given further information and will be signposted to:

- local organisations that have agreed to support unemployed people;
- online support; and
- to specific opportunities in their communities.

Jobcentre Plus is working with the voluntary and community sector locally to ensure that more opportunities are available to the unemployed and particularly opportunities which will help people develop new skills.

#### Work Clubs

Work Clubs will build on the foundations of the existing network of community-based support to provide unemployed people:

- giving practical advice and guidance for those voluntary and community organisations interested in setting up or supporting a local Work Club;

external relations teams are promoting Work Clubs and partnership working at a local level;

Jobcentre Plus are referring customers to appropriate Work Club opportunities where available; and

some Work Clubs may also be able to get some limited financial help to meet some of the associated start-up costs.

#### Volunteering and benefit rules

Jobseeker's allowance customers (and others on employment and support allowance and income support) are advised that they can do unlimited volunteering as long as they continue to meet the requirements for receipt of benefit.

#### Providing a service to DWP

The 'Merlin Standard' has been introduced. It seeks to embed the DWP code of practice, ensuring that sub-contractors, including those from the voluntary and community sector are treated fairly by the prime contractors of our welfare to work programmes.

Engagement events have been held across the country to bring together voluntary sector organisations with potential prime contractors for the work programme.

## HEALTH

### Abortion: Finance

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 896, on termination of pregnancy (information provided), whether funding for counselling women on abortion is given to abortion providers only if the abortion subsequently goes ahead. [38704]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not collected by the Department.

All clinics and hospitals providing abortion should offer women impartial advice, including written information, medical assessment and decision making support including counselling. Services should identify those that may need additional support in decision-making and women who choose to continue with the pregnancy should be referred for antenatal care.

### Ambulance Services: Emergency Calls

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate NHS expenditure on responses to hoax calls to the emergency services in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [38797]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on the expenditure of responses to hoax calls made to the ambulance service is not collected centrally. An estimation of the expenditure can therefore not be made.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-emergency calls were made to ambulance services in each of the last three years. [38798]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The number of non-emergency calls made to ambulance services is not collected centrally. However, all emergency calls made through the 999 system are prioritised as being a category 'A' (immediately life-threatening), 'B' (serious but not immediately life threatening) or a 'C' (neither immediately life threatening nor serious), and these are collected and reported centrally.

Information on emergency calls can be found within the NHS Information Centre's annual statistical bulletin for ambulance services, which is available on their website at:

[www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/Ambulance/Ambulance\\_Services\\_England\\_2009\\_10\\_Bulletin.pdf](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/Ambulance/Ambulance_Services_England_2009_10_Bulletin.pdf)

### Cataracts: Medical Treatments

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the use of new eye lens technologies in the treatment of cataract patients using NHS services of implementation of the proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill. [38183]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We have made no such assessment. The proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill aim to create a stronger framework for improving the quality

of services, ensuring that national health service patients have access to evidence-based care through clinically led commissioning arrangements.

### Continuing Care

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients are on long-term life support. [38585]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Exercise

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of long-term trends in levels of physical activity in (a) children and (b) adults. [38506]

**Anne Milton:** Trend data for participation in physical activity are reported in the Health Survey for England (HSE). The results of the 2008 survey showed that more boys (32%) than girls (24%) aged two to 15 years met the chief medical officer's recommendation for physical activity. New questions on children's physical activity were used in the HSE in 2008, so these data cannot be directly compared with earlier years.

The percentage of adults achieving recommended levels of physical activity increased steadily between 1997 and 2008, from 26% to 36% for all adults.

### Eyesight: Screening

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to encourage early diagnosis of eye conditions in the NHS. [38859]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy.

Following advice from the UK NSC the Department of Health has set up the English National Screening Programme for Diabetic Retinopathy (ENSPDR) and the NHS Newborn Infant Physical Examination Screening Programme (NIPE). The ENSPDR offers all people aged 12 and over with diabetes the opportunity to be screened for diabetic retinopathy. The NIPE screening programmes offer parents the opportunity to have their babies' eyes checked shortly after birth to check for conditions such as cataracts and retinoblastoma.

'The Healthy Child Programme from 4-19 years old' (published by the Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families in October 2009) and the UK NSC recommend that all children between four and five years of age are screened for visual impairments.

Free sight tests are available under the NHS to many people, including people aged 60 and over, children under 16, those aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, people on benefits, those people at particular risk of developing eye disease, and people who are registered blind or partially sighted or who have a complex spectacle prescription. Sight tests allow the opportunity to review all aspects of eye health, including investigations for



signs of disease and to decide whether a referral for further investigation should be made. Departmental officials worked with the organisers of National Eye Health Week to develop a new patient information leaflet, which raises awareness of eye health. The leaflet was launched to coincide with National Eye Health Week, which ran from 14-20 June 2010.

The uptake of NHS sight tests is increasing. In 2009-10, there were 11.8 million NHS sight tests, an increase of 4.7% on 2008-09.

#### **Food: Labelling**

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his oral evidence to the Health Committee on 20 July 2010, Q39, what further discussions he has had on (a) a legal framework for guideline daily amounts and (b) a voluntary national traffic light system for foods; what his policy is on a national food traffic light system; and if he will make a statement. [38276]

**Anne Milton:** The legal framework for guideline daily amounts (GDAs) is being discussed by member states as part of negotiations on a new EU food information regulation. The United Kingdom supports the proposal for voluntary front of pack labelling with percentage GDA information on energy, fat, saturates, sugars and salt, with scope for companies to use additional forms of expression.

Negotiations on this proposal are under way and are not expected to be completed before 2012.

#### **General Practitioner: Consortia**

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the ability of patients to receive healthcare from a provider outside the designated catchment area of their GP consortia. [38451]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The ability of patients to receive services outside of the 'catchment' area of the responsible general practitioner consortium will depend on local commissioning decisions for specific services and on existing contractual arrangements, and on the proposed introduction of patient choice of any willing provider (as such providers could be outside the 'catchment'). This is one of the key issues the Department has consulted on as part of the recent choice consultation. Details of how the choice offer will develop will be made in the response to choice consultation in the spring.

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what (a) criteria and (b) measures he proposes to use to evaluate the effectiveness of the Health and Wellbeing Boards in scrutinising the GP consortia. [38723]

**Paul Burstow:** In response to consultation comments following the publication of "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", we have decided that local authorities' overview and scrutiny functions will remain separate from the proposed health and wellbeing boards. We also intend to significantly extend the scrutiny powers available to councils, so that they will have the powers to scrutinise any national health service funded services,

whoever provides them. Health and wellbeing boards will be responsible for agreeing joint strategies for improving health and well-being in a local area, which all partners will have a duty to regard.

#### **General Practitioners: Waiting Lists**

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the length of waiting lists to register with a GP in each (a) region and (b) constituency. [38663]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held centrally.

Primary care trusts have a duty to meet all reasonable requirements to provide primary medical services within their areas, including where necessary allocating patients to practices where the patient is unable to register with a practice themselves.

#### **Health Services**

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements will be in place for patients to access information about their care providers following the implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [38741]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill does not contain any specific provisions on this matter, and we do not believe that legislation is necessary to achieve a significant improvement in the availability of information about care providers.

We have recently consulted on a raft of proposals for an information revolution for health and adult social care in England, which include the benefits of making available a greater range of information on all aspects of care, and from a more diverse range of sources, to help people make informed choices. We will use the responses to the consultation to develop specific plans to put our proposals into effect.

#### **Health Services: EU Action**

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to support the EU Cross-Border Health Service Directive; and if he will make a statement. [38444]

**Anne Milton:** The United Kingdom has been at the forefront of efforts to achieve a workable directive so that citizens, health organisations and Governments have clarity about how the rules for accessing cross border health care work in practice, and also to ensure that a framework is put in place which allows member states to manage their health systems appropriately.

The UK Government believe that the current directive text, as approved by the European Parliament, meets our negotiating aims and will therefore support adoption.

#### **HIV Infection: Sandwell**

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Sandwell borough were diagnosed with HIV in each of the last three years. [38584]

**Anne Milton:** The latest available information for Sandwell primary care trust (PCT), which covers Sandwell metropolitan borough council is shown in the following table:

| Number of new HIV diagnoses in Sandwell PCT 2007-09 |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|
|                                                     | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| New HIV diagnoses                                   | 10   | 36   | 21   |

**Notes:**

1. Data are new HIV diagnoses reported to the end of June 2010.
2. New diagnosis data do not necessarily reflect recently acquired infections, as patients may live for many years without diagnosis.
3. Data represent place of diagnosis, not place of residence. There is evidence that a substantial proportion of individuals are diagnosed outside of their PCT of residence.
4. Complete data for 2010 will be available from August 2011.

**Source:**

Health Protection Agency, HIV and AIDS New Diagnoses and Death Database

### Influenza: Vaccination

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the NHS is capable of providing egg-allergic patients with influenza vaccinations. [39250]

**Anne Milton:** The composition and method of production of seasonal influenza vaccines is primarily a matter for the vaccine manufacturers.

All the seasonal influenza vaccines supplied to the United Kingdom for the current season were grown in eggs. Egg-allergic patients recommended to receive seasonal influenza vaccination should seek medical advice from their general practitioner (GP). The risk to the individual of not being immunised and the severity of the individual's egg allergy should be taken into account by GPs when considering whether to vaccinate. There are very few individuals who cannot receive influenza vaccine due to a history of confirmed anaphylactic reaction to any egg-containing product. In these rare cases, specialist advice should be sought with a view to immunisation under controlled conditions. In light of the reduced levels of egg protein in current seasonal influenza vaccines, the Department is aiming to review advice on the vaccination of patients with egg allergies.

### Influenza: Young People

**Mr Raynsford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of differentials in (a) the incidence of hospital admissions for flu-like symptoms and (b) mortality between (i) children aged under 16 of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin and (ii) all such children; and whether he has commissioned research on this subject since October 2010. [38919]

**Anne Milton:** Routine data on the incidence of hospital admissions for flu-like symptoms are not collected by the Department or the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The HPA is unable to provide data on the ethnicity of children who have died from/with confirmed flu.

### Mental Health Services: Finance

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's document, No health without mental health: a cross-Government

mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages of February 2011, whether the £400 million allocated to increasing patient access to mental health therapists is in addition to the £173 million for increasing patient access to mental health therapists allocated as part of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme announced in February 2008. [39202]

**Paul Burstow:** Yes.

### Mental Illness

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (a) children and (b) adults have been sectioned for mental health disorders in each of the last 10 years. [38477]

**Paul Burstow:** Information on the number of children and adults detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 is not available broken down by age nor for the period requested. The following tables show the number of times the Act has been used to detain persons, but not the number of individuals (i.e. one person may have been detained more than once) for the latest five years for which data are available.

*Formal admissions to NHS facilities and independent hospitals by legal status, 2005-06 to 2009-10, England*

|         | Total number of formal admissions |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 2005-06 | 27,353                            |
| 2006-07 | 27,716                            |
| 2007-08 | 28,085                            |
| 2008-09 | 28,673                            |
| 2009-10 | 30,774                            |

**Source:**

In-patients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and patients subject to supervised community treatment, Annual Figures, England, 2009-10 The NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre, October 2010

*All formal admissions to NHS facilities (including high security psychiatric hospitals) and independent hospitals registered to detain patients under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, by legal status, 2000-01 to 2004-05 (England)*

|         | Total formal admissions |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 26,632                  |
| 2001-02 | 26,209                  |
| 2002-03 | 26,403                  |
| 2003-04 | 26,208                  |
| 2004-05 | 26,752                  |

**Source:**

In-patients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, England: 1994-95 to 2004-05, The NHS Information Centre, May 2006

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of long-term trends in the mental health of (a) children and (b) adults; and if he will make a statement. [38492]

**Paul Burstow:** The cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy 'No health without mental health', published on 2 February was informed by an assessment of both the personal and economic costs of mental health problems. The costs of treatment alone are expected to double in the next 20 years, if we do nothing.

The strategy represents a major step forward in mainstreaming mental health and supporting the Government's important aim of achieving parity of esteem between physical and mental health. By promoting good health and intervening early we can help to prevent mental illness from developing and mitigate its effects when it does.

The Office for National Statistics survey 'Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain, 2004' found that 9.6% of children aged five to 16 years had a clinically recognisable mental disorder.

An estimate of future prevalence of mental health disorders was made in the King's Fund report 'Paying the Price: The cost of mental health care in 2026' published in 2008. It projected that by 2026 the number of children with conduct disorder, emotional disorder,

hyperkinetic disorder and co-morbid disorders would increase by 13.3% to 687,969, up from an estimated 607,402 in 2007. The full report can be found at:

[www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/profile.asp?guid=b3c2917f-fac7-4eal-898b-0ff2da031fba](http://www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/profile.asp?guid=b3c2917f-fac7-4eal-898b-0ff2da031fba)

The Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey is a survey among adults living in private households. In 2007 16.2% of the adult population reported prevalence of any common mental health disorder (CMD) similar to 2000 (16.4%) and 9.7% of the population had a prevalence of mixed anxiety and depressive disorder compared to 9.4% the previous year. The following table gives information on the most common CMD for the year 2000 and 2007 by age and sex.

#### Common mental health disorders

*Prevalence of mixed anxiety and depressive disorder and depressive episodes in past week in 2000 and 2007 by age (16 to 74) and gender, England*

|                                       | 16 to 34 |      | 35 to 44 |      | 45 to 54 |      | 55 to 64 |      | 65 to 74 |      | Percentage<br>All adults |      |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|--------------------------|------|
|                                       | 2007     | 2000 | 2007     | 2000 | 2007     | 2000 | 2007     | 2000 | 2007     | 2000 | 2007                     | 2000 |
| <b>Men</b>                            |          |      |          |      |          |      |          |      |          |      |                          |      |
| Mixed anxiety and depressive disorder | 7.8      | 6.7  | 7.4      | 9.0  | 8.1      | 7.8  | 6.8      | 6.9  | 3.9      | 3.1  | 7.6                      | 7.5  |
| Depressive episodes                   | 2.1      | 1.3  | 2.6      | 3.4  | 2.6      | 3.8  | 1.5      | 2.8  | 0.4      | 0.4  | 2.2                      | 2.6  |
| <b>Women</b>                          |          |      |          |      |          |      |          |      |          |      |                          |      |
| Mixed anxiety and depressive disorder | 13.3     | 13.3 | 9.7      | 10.8 | 14.3     | 10.9 | 9.0      | 8.2  | 8.6      | 7.1  | 11.8                     | 11.4 |
| Depressive episodes                   | 2.2      | 2.7  | 3.2      | 3.4  | 4.9      | 2.8  | 2.2      | 3.0  | 1.6      | 1.0  | 3.0                      | 2.9  |
| <b>All adults</b>                     |          |      |          |      |          |      |          |      |          |      |                          |      |
| Mixed anxiety and depressive disorder | 10.5     | 9.9  | 8.5      | 9.9  | 11.2     | 9.3  | 8.0      | 7.5  | 6.4      | 5.2  | 9.7                      | 9.4  |
| Depressive episodes                   | 2.2      | 2.0  | 2.9      | 3.4  | 3.7      | 3.3  | 1.9      | 2.9  | 1.0      | 0.7  | 2.6                      | 2.8  |

Source:

Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (AMPS) 2000 and 2007 by the NHS Information Centre.

The King's Fund report, 'Paying the Price: The cost of mental health care in 2026', estimated that the number of people with depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia disorders, bipolar disorder/related conditions, eating disorders, personality disorders, and dementia would increase from 8.04 million in 2007 to 9.19 million in 2026.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement to announce the publication of the mental health strategy given on 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-46WS.

'No health without mental health: a cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages' and supporting documents are available at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Mentalhealth/MentalHealthStrategy/index.htm](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Mentalhealth/MentalHealthStrategy/index.htm)

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of (a) children and (b) young people in each region were diagnosed with mental health disorders in the latest period for which figures are available. [38493]

**Paul Burstow:** Information is not collected on the numbers of children and young people diagnosed with a mental health disorder. However, an Office for National

Statistics survey for the Department of Health and the Scottish Executive in 2004 (Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain, ONS, 2004) found that 9.6% of five to 16-year-olds (11.4% of boys, 7.8% of girls) had a clinically diagnosed mental disorder.

#### Midwives: Staff Numbers

**Mrs Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bereavement midwives are employed in each primary care trust area. [38822]

**Anne Milton:** Bereavement midwives provide support to parents who lose a child before, during or shortly after birth. These roles are established locally and the title is not registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

It is for employers to decide the number and skill mix of their workforce including the provision of professionals providing bereavement services.

#### Monitor

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely net expenditure of Monitor in each of the next 10 years. [38826]



**Mr Simon Burns:** We have published estimated costs in the impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill<sup>1</sup>. The costs of the new economic regulator are expected to be around £50-£70 million per year.

This is based on benchmarking against the costs of other regulators in other sectors. Subject to legislation, Monitor's actual budget would be agreed with the Secretary of State. Monitor would also need to report annually on expenditure and demonstrate value for public money.

<sup>1</sup> Note:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH\\_123583](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583)

#### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's role in the provision of advice about treatments and drugs to health care providers. [38747]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will continue to have a vital role in providing advice and guidance to health care providers and commissioners about treatments and drugs. The Health and Social Care Bill includes provision for NICE to be re-established in primary legislation.

#### NHS: Procurement

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all contracts to provide health will be tendered following the implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [38742]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill would not require that all contracts for national health service services in future be subject to competitive tender.

Wherever possible, we expect competition would be driven by patient choice based on the principle that 'any willing provider' should be able to offer services to patients where they meet NHS standards and accept the NHS tariffs. In other cases, we would expect competitive tender for new contracts such as where commissioners are seeking to deliver new services or on contracts' expiration.

#### NHS: Reorganisation

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the health care market of an NHS foundation trust being awarded a majority of commissioning contracts in one geographical area. [38445]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not centrally held. It would be for commissioners to initiate analysis of their markets and model their decisions based on these assessments.

The 'health special administrator' would secure this outcome by rescuing the provider as a going concern and/or a transfer of undertaking(s) to another provider that holds a valid licence (see clause 115). However, the form of solution would vary in individual cases and could potentially involve one or both of these means.

In addition, the Health and Social Care Bill would require that the Secretary of State make regulations on health special administration, which may include further provisions about the transfer of property of an NHS foundation trust (see clauses 116 and 117). These regulations would be subject to affirmative resolution by each House of Parliament.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether a service that has been designated as a vital service such as a hospital accident and emergency department could be closed and services transferred to a private provider if it fails financially; [38446]

(2) whether there are any safeguards in place to prevent the transfer or sale of (a) buildings and (b) assets of an NHS foundation trust which enters into administration; and if he will make a statement. [38447]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The proposals set out in the Health and Social Care Bill would protect patients' interests by ensuring continued access to essential national health service services where there are no alternative providers. For a particular provider, services would be designated by Monitor as subject to additional regulation ('designated services') upon application by the relevant commissioner(s) and where Monitor was satisfied that the statutory criteria had been met (see clause 69).

In the event that the provider became insolvent, Monitor would be able to apply to the courts for an order appointing a 'health special administrator' to direct the affairs, business and property of the provider so as to secure the ongoing provision of 'designated services'.

#### NHS: Standards

**Andrew Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what effect implementation of the proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill will have on the future of central targets relating to waiting times for referral from GPs to the point of treatment. [38869]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Implementation of the proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill will enable the national health service to focus on quality and the results that matter to patients—such as how successful their treatment was. Targets that benefit patients such as the cancer waiting time standards have been retained.

The rights for patients to start treatment within maximum waiting times remain in the NHS constitution. This combined with information on the quality of patients' experiences and outcomes will inform patients' choices of where they want to be treated and drive further improvement in quality and waiting times.

#### Ophthalmic Services

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the level of NHS spending on commissioning ophthalmic services was in each primary care trust area in each of the last 10 years. [38185]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Financial returns and end year accounts collected centrally from primary care trusts (PCTs) do not separately identify expenditure on ophthalmic services, with the exception of the General Ophthalmic

Service which funds the provision of national health service sight tests and NHS optical vouchers to eligible patient groups. However, since 2003-04 PCTs have participated in the national Programme Budget Project where they produce estimates of their total expenditure categorised into each of 23 health care programmes. This includes a category for expenditure on problems of vision to cover all services relating to the eye and vision. Information on programme budget estimates for expenditure on problems of vision in each PCT in the period 2003-04 to 2009-10 has been placed in the Library.

#### Primary Care Trusts: Buildings

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which buildings used by primary care trusts have been constructed under his Department's Local Improvement Finance Trust scheme. [39111]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Primary care trusts use 243 of the 244 buildings constructed under the Department's Local Improvement Finance Trust initiative. A list of buildings currently open to patients has been placed in the Library.

#### Prostate Cancer

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the awareness among general practitioners of the information contained in the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme. [38614]

**Paul Burstow:** When the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP) was relaunched in July 2009, all general practitioners (GPs) in England were sent a copy of the revised information pack along with a covering letter from the chief medical officer. The relaunch was also highlighted in the Department of Health's GP Bulletin. At the same time NHS Cancer Screening Programmes ran a GP communications campaign which included a medical press launch; a web cast; a slide set; a British Medical Journal e-learning module; and linking the PCRMP materials to GP information technology systems.

Despite this, we know that some GPs are still not aware of the programme or a man's right to a free prostate specific antigen test, providing he has made an informed choice following a GP consultation and consideration of the PCRMP leaflet.

That is why "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" published in January 2011 sets out how the UK National Screening Committee has recommended further education of GPs through the PCRMP. This work is being taken forward by the PCRMP Scientific Reference Group, which next meets in March 2011.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency admissions there were for men with a primary diagnosis of prostate cancer in (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority area, (c) each primary care trust area and (d) each parliamentary constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [38739]

**Paul Burstow:** The information is not collected in the format requested.

Information regarding counts of all emergency finished admission episodes for men where the primary diagnosis was prostate cancer has been placed in the Library.

The information has been provided for England, and by strategic health authority, primary care trust and parliamentary constituency of residence in England for 2009-10, the most recent year for which information is available. There were 6,269 emergency finished admission episodes in England, where the primary diagnosis was prostate cancer.

This is not a count of the number of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many men had a prostate-specific antigen test administered to them in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [38795]

**Paul Burstow:** The Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP) is in place to ensure that men without symptoms of prostate cancer considering a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test are given information concerning the benefits, limitations and risks associated with having a test. If a man still wants a PSA test after a general practitioner consultation and consideration of an informed choice leaflet, he should be offered one free on the national health service.

The UK National Screening Committee has asked the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group to explore options for making the PCRMP information more accessible to men to ensure that men are informed about the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer and empowered to request a PSA test if they want one.

The requested information is not centrally collected.

#### Public Health: Finance

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he expects funding for public health activities determined on the basis of figures included in the provisional formula grant settlement announcement for 2011-12 to be distributed to local authorities. [38812]

**Anne Milton:** As set out in the White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England", from April 2013 Public Health England will allocate ring-fenced budgets, weighted for inequalities, to upper-tier and unitary authorities in local government for improving the health and wellbeing of local populations. Local authorities will not be receiving a grant for public health activities in 2011-12.

There will be shadow allocations to local authorities for this budget in 2012-13, providing an opportunity for planning before allocations go live in 2013-14 and an opportunity to evaluate the allocations process.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on tackling health inequalities through the allocation of funding for public health. [38830]

**Mr Simon Burns:** From April 2013, upper tier and unitary local authorities will receive a new ring-fenced public health grant, in order to improve the health of

their local population. The size of the ring-fenced grant will be based on relative population health need and weighted for inequalities. Apart from mandatory services, it will be for local authorities to determine how best to invest this funding to meet local priorities. We are consulting on the approach to developing the allocations.

The new health premium will be designed to incentivise action to reduce health inequalities and reward progress in improving the health of the local population, based on elements of the Public Health Outcomes Framework. We will develop the formula for the health premium in an open and transparent way and are consulting on both the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the approach we should take to the premium itself in order to get the detail right, ensuring that it is fair, rewards areas for their achievements, and incentivises reductions in health inequalities.

#### Public Health: Regulation

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his proposals for regulations under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill in respect of the public health functions of the Secretary of State which he will require local authorities to exercise. [38802]

**Anne Milton:** The timing of regulations arising from the Health and Social Care Bill will depend on the passage of the Bill and the timing of Royal Assent, as well as on the nature of the regulations in question. Under current plans, regulations concerning the exercise of public health functions by local authorities would not take effect before April 2013.

### WALES

#### Electoral Systems

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what costs her Department has incurred in respect of provision of information to the electorate on the (a) operation of and (b) voting system for the National Assembly for Wales since the creation of the Assembly; and if she will make a statement. [38157]

**Mr David Jones:** The Wales Office has no record of incurring costs since the creation of the National Assembly for Wales in respect of providing information to the public on the operation of, and voting system for, the Assembly.

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Society of Local Authority Chief Executives

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies provided to the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and its associated companies in (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10. [36889]

**Robert Neill:** The amount paid to the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and its associated companies by the Department for Communities and Local Government, its agencies, non-departmental public bodies, and other arm's length bodies is shown in the following table:

|                          | 2008-09    | 2009-10    |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| DCLG, agencies and NDPBs | 38,001.95  | 45,434.80  |
| Ordnance Survey          | 70,500.00  | 70,000.00  |
| Audit Commission         | 8,950.00   | 10,721.00  |
| Total                    | 117,451.95 | 126,155.80 |

#### Audit Commission: Motor Vehicles

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on payments made for early termination of car lease arrangements for its staff in the 24 months to May 2010. [38588]

**Robert Neill:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

*Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 8 February 2011:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

Between 1 June 2008 and 31 May 2010, £12863.96 was paid in early termination fees in respect of 22 cars.

We have a clear policy for dealing with cars if a member of staff leaves the Audit Commission before the end of their car lease. The car is normally reallocated to a new driver. We only terminate leases on vehicles where it is cheaper than incurring additional maintenance, storage and other costs pending reallocation.

Unallocated lease cars stay in our pool for about two months. We estimate net savings of approximately £7,000 on surrender of the leases.

#### Carbon Monoxide: Alarms

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to require all landlords to fit carbon monoxide alarms to rented accommodation. [38738]

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to require landlords to install carbon monoxide monitors in their properties. [38762]

**Andrew Stunell:** There are no plans to require landlords to install carbon monoxide monitors in privately rented properties. Our priority is to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide in the first place. Carbon monoxide detectors and alarms will never be a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of combustion appliances.

Landlords are responsible for maintaining their properties, including the safety of gas and electrical appliances and must arrange for an annual maintenance check of gas pipe work, appliances and flues. This should be carried out by an engineer registered with the Gas Safe Register.



### Community Centres

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many community centres were in operation in each of the last 10 years. [38371]

**Andrew Stunell:** The information requested is not held by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### Community Development

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on social cohesion in communities in traditional steel working and coal mining areas. [38455]

**Robert Neill:** The Department has not commissioned specific research on social cohesion in traditional steel working areas nor in relation to coal mining areas. In 2007 the Department published an interim evaluation of coalfields regeneration programmes in England. This study assessed progress made in regenerating the former coal mining areas and included some consideration of community-related outcomes such as community empowerment, development and cohesion.

### Council Tax

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in England are registered for council tax. [39142]

**Robert Neill:** As at 13 September 2010 there were 22.1 million properties in England that were liable for council tax.

This information is available in table 1 of the statistical release local authority council taxbase 2010 that was published on 18 November 2010 and is available on the DCLG website

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernment/finance/statistics/counciltaxbase/>

### Council Tax: Valuation

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of revaluing each dwelling in (a) England and (b) Wales for council tax purposes. [39166]

**Robert Neill:** In a written ministerial statement on 11 October 2010, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State informed the House that, on 23 September, along with the Exchequer Secretary, he had confirmed that the Government will not carry out a council tax revaluation in England during the lifetime of this Parliament. My Department has therefore not estimated the cost of revaluing each dwelling in England for council tax purposes. Council tax in Wales is a matter devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Notwithstanding, I note that the cost of the 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales was publicly estimated to be £5.2 million by the last administration<sup>1</sup>.

The (postponed, and now cancelled) council tax revaluation in England was publicly estimated by the last administration to cost between £177 million and £200 million<sup>2</sup>. These figures are not expressed in current terms.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 775W

<sup>2</sup> 5 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 298W

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many special advisers there were in his Department in each year since it was created. [36893]

**Robert Neill:** The number of special advisers within the Department varies within each year (as appointments sometimes overlap). The following numbers represent the number there were for the majority of each year.

2006: three

2007: three

2008: three

2009: three

2010: three (pre-election)

2010-11: two (post-election).

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35418]

**Robert Neill:** Since his appointment, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made 15 new appointments, including reappointments, to the Department's arm's length bodies, and granted, with the approval of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, nine extensions to appointees of our arm's length bodies. The details are as follows:

#### *The Audit Commission*

Brian Landers, Janet Baker and Tony Harris were appointed as Commissioners to the Board of the Audit Commission. The appointments will cover the period from 1 November up until 31 December 2012. The Commissioners will be paid £14,358 per annum based on a time commitment of three days per month. A press release is available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1765249>

Lord Adebawale of Thornes and Bharat Shah agreed to serve a second term as Commissioners on the Board until the end of 2012. Further details of these reappointments are included in a press release available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1707764>

Jennifer Dixon agreed to continue to serve as a Commissioner on the Board until the end of 2012, further details of this extension are included in the press release covering the new appointments above.

Lord Adebowale and Ms Dixon will be paid £14,358 per annum based on a time commitment of three days per month. As Deputy Chair of the Commission's board, Mr Shah will be paid £23,931 per annum based on a time commitment of five days per month.

#### *Architects Registration Board*

Beatrice Fraenkel has agreed to serve a further term until 31 December 2013 and Myra Kinghorn has agreed to serve a further term until 31 March 2014. Their remuneration is £250 per day.

#### *Building Regulations Advisory Committee*

Tracy Aarons, Keith Bright, Nicholas Cullen, Trevor Haynes, Adrian Levett and Andrew Shipley have all agreed to serve a further term until 30 September 2013. Lynne Sullivan has agreed to serve a further term until 31 January 2012.

These appointments are not remunerated.

As already announced, the two Thames Gateway Development Corporations are to be reformed by way of devolution to local government. As part of this, their boards will be streamlined with a remit to focus on their remaining activity and oversee the local projects.

The Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation's board will comprise the Chair, Deputy Chair and seven members. The Commissioner for Public Appointments has agreed to the extension of the appointments of the chair, Will McKee, deputy chair Bill Samuel, and members Sunny Crouch and Chris Paveley, to 31 July 2012, and member Martin Leigh-Pollitt to 31 March 2012. Remuneration and time commitment:

Will McKee: £48,897 per annum (two days per week)

Bill Samuel: £36,732 per annum (two days per week)

Sunny Crouch: £12,364 per annum (three days per month)

Chris Paveley: £12,364 per annum (three days per month)

Martin Leigh-Pollitt: £12,364 per annum (three days per month).

The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation's board will comprise the chair and 10 members. The Commissioner for Public Appointments has agreed to the extension of the appointments of members Councillors Conor McAuley, Guy Nicholson and Michael White to 31 March 2012. The Minister for the Thames Gateway has agreed to the reappointment of Stan Hornagold to 31 March 2012. Remuneration and time commitment:

Cllr Conor McAuley: £12,121 per annum (three days per month)

Cllr Guy Nicholson: £12,121 per annum (three days per month)

Cllr Michael White: £12,121 per annum (three days per month)

Stan Hornagold: £12,121 per annum (three days per month).

#### **Departmental Public Expenditure**

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on consultancy since May 2010. [34490]

**Robert Neill:** Records show that the Department has spent £12,736,627 on consultancy from 1 May 2010 to 31 December 2010. A significant proportion of this expenditure relates to contractual arrangements put in place by the last administration, including FiReControl.

Furthermore, and to put this in context, in the last financial year, April 2009 to March 2010, records showed a spend of £36,558,000.

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on redecorating Ministerial offices since May 2010. [34527]

**Robert Neill:** There has been no expenditure on redecorating ministerial offices since May 2010.

To put this in context, the costs of redecorating Ministers' Offices for previous years are as follows:

#### *2008-09*

£324.00—Repainting M. Beckett's Office November 2008.

#### *2009-10*

£287.36—Repainting Secretary of State's Office June 2009.

#### *2010-11*

£928.85—In the intervening period between the announcement of the general election and before the formation of the coalition Government, the opportunity was taken to refresh paintwork in a number of ministerial Offices. This expenditure, by definition, was not authorised by Ministers in the new administration.

#### **Devolution**

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments his Department has made to consultants in respect of work on devolution since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [36450]

**Robert Neill:** This information is not held centrally and could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

#### **Housing: Brighton Kemptown**

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were built in Brighton, Kemptown constituency in the last five years for which figures are available. [39243]

**Andrew Stunell:** Data on house building are not collected by parliamentary constituency. However, the following table shows the number of new build housing completions in Brighton and Hove unitary authority each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

#### *Brighton and Hove city council UA*

|         | <i>Number of new-build dwellings completed</i> |
|---------|------------------------------------------------|
| 2005-06 | 250                                            |
| 2006-07 | 380                                            |
| 2007-08 | 690                                            |
| 2008-09 | 360                                            |
| 2009-10 | 240                                            |

*Source:*

P2 returns from local authorities and data from NHBC

### Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to require new housing developments to be low-carbon. [39028]

**Grant Shapps:** The coalition agreement committed this Government to making continuous improvements in the energy efficiency of new buildings. Last year, we introduced revisions to the building regulations which require higher levels of energy efficiency, and we have announced plans to make a further revision in 2013. I updated the House in December on progress with our plans to enable all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that measures to reduce carbon emissions in new properties are financially worthwhile for builders of new homes. [39031]

**Grant Shapps:** As technology and building methods improve, the costs of measures to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency in new homes will increasingly fall to the benefit of both builders and buyers of new homes. Energy efficiency measures which reduce carbon will also lead to lower fuel bills which will improve the attractiveness of new homes. By setting a long-term goal to enable new homes to be zero carbon from 2016, the Government are creating the conditions for industry to innovate and develop cost saving solutions.

### Housing: Construction

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on planning conditions which permit the construction of residential annexes to domestic properties. [38813]

**Robert Neill:** The construction of residential annexes to domestic properties may be undertaken without the need for planning permission where the development meets the limits and conditions set out in the legislation governing permitted development. Under Schedule 2, Part 1, Class E of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended by Statutory Instrument 2008 No. 2362), development of such an annexe is permitted within the curtilage of a dwelling house as long as its use is incidental to the enjoyment of the house. Where such a development does not meet the limits and conditions set out in the legislation, an application for planning permission will need to be made to the local planning authority.

### Local Government Finance

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the levels of their financial reserves. [39253]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to a letter sent by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for

Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), to local authorities on 27 January 2011. I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

### Motor Vehicles: Sales

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local councils to prevent the commercial (a) repair and (b) sale on public roads of fully-taxed vehicles. [37566]

**Robert Neill:** Section 3 of part 2 of the 'Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005' makes selling and repairing cars on the road by way of business a specific offence. Also, local authorities in England and Wales can adopt provisions in the 'Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982' whereby they can designate streets as prohibited for street trading purposes, or as licence or consent streets where permission must be obtained to trade. Section 75 of the 'Road Traffic Act 1988' makes it an offence to sell, supply or offer to sell or supply, or expose for sale an unroadworthy vehicle.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of extending the concession allowing empty rates to be waived for properties with a rateable value of less than £18,000 per annum until economic growth returns to its long-term trend. [39112]

**Robert Neill:** The Government's ability to take action on empty property rates needs to be balanced against the costs involved, the targeted support that we have already provided on business rates and the overriding need to reduce public expenditure and support the economy generally by reducing the deficit.

Unfortunately, taking these matters into consideration, support for empty property rate measures for 2011-12 is unaffordable. As I outlined in my written statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 61-62WS, it would cost £400 million to continue with the temporary empty rates measure, which unfortunately is not fiscally sustainable given the public finances that the new Government have inherited from the last administration.

However, while the Government have no immediate plans for reforms, we are certainly keeping this matter under review.

### Schools: Construction

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish his Department's response to its consultation on planning for schools development. [39128]

**Robert Neill:** The Government ran a consultation on planning for schools development, which closed on 10 December. We are currently considering responses and will publish our response thereafter.



### Sports: Finance

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effect on local sport and leisure facilities of reductions in grants to local authorities. [36853]

**Robert Neill:** It is for local authorities to decide on their spending priorities. In total, local authorities will have greater control over more than £7 billion of funding from 2011-12 which is moving into formula grant, being unringfenced or is new funding for the spending review period, so enabling them to better meet local communities' needs.

### DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

#### Elections

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will assess the relationship between turnout in national and local elections and levels of social capital; [38317]

(2) to ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will assess the relationship between levels of social capital in each socio-economic grouping and turnout at elections. [39017]

**Mr Harper:** The Government have no plans to carry out such an assessment.

Research that has been undertaken relating to turnout and engagement in elections, for example, by the Electoral Commission and the Hansard Society, has found that a range of factors will impact upon turnout at elections including socio-economic factors.

The Government are committed to engaging the electorate in elections and wider democratic activity. The Government's programme of political and constitutional reform aims to restore people's trust in our political system.

#### Elections: Machine Ballot Counting

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of consultancy reports held by his Office on the efficacy and reliability of machine ballot counting in regional and local government elections. [36452]

**Mr Harper:** The Government have not commissioned any consultancy reports on the overall efficacy and reliability of machine counting of ballots in respect of regional and local government elections.

The Electoral Commission evaluated and reported on each of the individual pilots, approved under the previous Government, that utilised electronic counting of ballots in England in May 2007. These evaluations included technical reports on each pilot as well as an overall technical report. The Commission also utilised consultants to complete a report on the use of electronic counting at the Greater London Authority elections in May 2008. These reports are all publicly available on the Electoral Commission's website.

Other reports that refer to the use of electronic counting in 2007 and earlier years, in English local elections, Scottish parliamentary and local elections and Greater London authority elections, have also been produced by the Commission and the Greater London authority and are available on their websites.

#### Primary Elections

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 766-7W, on primary elections, whether he plans to make an announcement on all-postal primaries after the boundaries review. [39172]

**Mr Harper:** As my answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 766-7W, set out, we will make further details available once we have considered the impact of the significant changes being made to our electoral process under the Government's programme of political and constitutional reform.

#### Tibet: Human Rights

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 195W, on Tibet: human rights, what the response was of Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang on the issue of human rights in Tibet. [38190]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** When I met Vice Premier Li, I reiterated the Government's policy on Tibet. I made clear that we have concerns about the protection of human rights in China and in Tibet specifically.

Vice Premier Li said that China was working towards ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and recognized the universality of human rights. But national conditions had to be taken into account. He said that significant reform was under way in China but that progress in these areas would take time.

### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

#### Carbon Storage

**Mr Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the first Carbon Capture and Storage demonstration project. [39308]

**Charles Hendry:** The Front End Engineering and Design studies for the first Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project are nearing completion. Negotiations are progressing. Depending on the quality and value for money of Scottish Power's detailed solution, we hope to award a contract in the second half of 2011.

#### Climate Change

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition of the term global temperatures he uses. [38356]

**Gregory Barker:** The term 'global temperatures' is commonly used and taken here to mean global average, annual, near-surface temperatures. This is estimated by combining statistically the National Meteorological Services' accredited climate station data with sea surface temperatures measured by shipping and buoys. These data are analysed independently by several centres and the resulting 'global temperature series' show very close agreement.

#### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which persons not employed by Government departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39268]

**Gregory Barker:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

#### Electricity Generation: Infrastructure

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many individual responses his Department has received to the consultation on the revised draft National Policy Statement on Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN 5). [39052]

**Charles Hendry:** Of the responses we received to the consultation on the revised draft National Policy Statements for Energy, 1,518 respondents chose to comment on the Statement on Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5).

#### Energy

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on take-up of (a) energy efficient products and (b) measures eligible for Green Deal funding of the applications of differing rates of value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [38551]

**Gregory Barker:** The rates of value added tax for different products and measures is a consideration for Her Majesty's Treasury.

We are aware that a wide range of factors can influence the uptake of energy efficiency products and measures. In recent years, the carbon emissions reduction target has been successful in promoting their take up across over three million households through full and substantial part subsidies.

Subject to the progress of the Energy Bill, Green Deal will further drive the uptake of measures which can pay for themselves through energy bill savings. This principle means that consumers can benefit from energy efficiency improvements at no upfront cost.

#### Energy: International Co-operation

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements were reached on energy and climate change at the Nordic Baltic Summit. [38768]

**Gregory Barker:** The UK Nordic Baltic summit brought together policy makers, business, and civil society leaders from nine countries with the aim of sharing ideas about how best to boost economic growth, enterprise, and job creation while improving people's well-being.

In the area of green economy and sustainable business, the Prime Minister attended a series of presentations, and took part in wider discussions, outlining innovative ideas from across the Nordic Baltic region in areas such as supergrids, smartgrids, and eco bonds. The Government are committed to promoting the transition to a low carbon economy in the UK and the EU, and believe that this region can be at the forefront of such a transition. The Prime Minister gave his backing to plans for a European supergrid, giving further momentum to work in this area. The Government are already an active participant in the North Seas Offshore Grid initiative, which is looking at the potential for greater interconnection of electricity networks across the whole region. This will be a cornerstone of the transition to a low carbon energy sector.

#### Energy: Smart Meters

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what stakeholder (a) engagement and (b) analysis his Department is carrying out on smart metering; and if he will make a statement. [38817]

**Charles Hendry:** Since the Smart Metering Implementation Programme Prospectus was published for consultation in July 2010, the Programme has carried out extensive stakeholder engagement. This has included stakeholder briefing events, expert groups, workshops and multilateral evidence gathering sessions, plus bilateral meetings with a wide range of stakeholders and industry associations. We are very grateful for the intensive engagement from all stakeholders.

Information regarding the smart meter Programme is also available on the DECC and Ofgem websites.

Engagement to date has been informed by detailed stakeholder analysis. The Programme has canvassed stakeholders' views of our communications methods through surveys and bilateral meetings, using responses to help us refine and improve our communications.

The Programme is now preparing a response to the consultation and will launch the next phase of the programme, in which continued active engagement with all stakeholders will be vital.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department plans to publish the proposals arising from its consultation on the Smart Metering Implementation Programme Prospectus. [38819]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government aim to publish their response to the Smart Metering Implementation Programme Prospectus Consultation around the end of March:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/>

### Liquefied Petroleum Gas: Prices

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the relationship between price fluctuations and market considerations in the pricing structure of the domestic liquefied petroleum gas market. [38737]

**Charles Hendry:** The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is influenced by a range of factors which include refinery capacity, stock levels, distribution costs, retail margins and exchange rates.

The UK has open and competitive markets for LPG. In a competitive market, prices are determined by costs faced by companies. As such, prices fluctuate with changes in costs. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 55WS. I am keen that the reasons for high prices and supply issues this winter are thoroughly investigated by an independent authority. I wrote to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy. I also asked the OFT if the study could explore the longer term consumer issues such as lifetime payback, consumer standards and labelling for alternative energy sources or supplies. Such a study would provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly.

I welcome the independent assessment of the off-grid market to be made by the OFT, and we look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so that the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

### Natural Gas: Drilling

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he or officials of his Department have had recent discussions on the legislative and regulatory framework relating to drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane with (a) Ministers in the devolved administrations and (b) Ministerial colleagues. [37475]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC Ministers and officials have regular contact with other Government Departments on a range of issues. I have scheduled a meeting with the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon), to discuss the issue, and intend to undertake a visit to Cuadrilla's operations in Blythe in the coming weeks.

### Power Stations: Construction

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he has taken of competition law in his proposal for a capacity payment to encourage the construction of reserve plants. [39282]

**Charles Hendry:** The Electricity Market Reform (EMR) project is under consultation and has yet to confirm whether a capacity mechanism is definitely necessary, and if so which type would best meet the nation's needs.

Implementation of any EMR policy decision will follow due process, and the impacts on competition will be carefully considered throughout. Competition will also be considered by Ofgem in its review of the wholesale market's liquidity, which is expected to reach a conclusion in the spring.

### Renewable Energy

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many (a) anaerobic digestion, (b) pyrolysis and (c) gasification producers and project developers have (i) been written to and (ii) responded as part of his Department's initiative to assess the deployment potential and generation costs of the renewable electricity targets. [37999]

**Charles Hendry:** The number of anaerobic digestion, pyrolysis and gasification producers and project developers who have been written to and responded as part of the Renewables Obligation Banding Review 2013 are given in the following table. For the purposes of the Banding Review, pyrolysis and gasification are classified as advanced conversion technologies, and are reflected in the table as such.

|                                  | Written to | Number Responded |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Anaerobic digestion              | 30         | 12               |
| Advanced conversion technologies | 17         | 6                |

Several trade associations with interests in these technologies, including the Renewable Energy Association and the Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association, are also contributing to the review.

Other organisations with an interest in the Banding Review are welcome to contact DECC, either now or as part of the statutory consultation later this year.

### Solar Power

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many solar parks (a) have received planning permission and been constructed and (b) are awaiting a planning decision on (i) agricultural land, (ii) greenfield sites and (iii) brownfield sites. [37469]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department does not routinely collect these data. However, data obtained from the Renewable Energy Statistics Data-base:

<https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/welcome-to-the-restats-web-site>

and Cornwall county council shows six solar park projects have received planning permission since the establishment of the feed-in tariffs scheme on 15 July 2010. Data from Cornwall county council also show 11 awaiting planning decision.

The data are not consistently broken down as requested.



### Utilities: Fees and Charges

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a legal obligation on energy companies to provide a rebate on billed gas and electricity costs for families with children in receipt of child tax credit on incomes of £16,190 per annum or less; and whether he has discussed such a proposal with representatives of energy companies. [39280]

**Gregory Barker:** The coalition Government has recently consulted on the Warm Home Discount scheme which would require energy suppliers to provide financial assistance to more of their most vulnerable consumers.

A response on the consultation will be published in due course.

### Water Power

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on creating a network of marine energy parks. [38770]

**Gregory Barker:** The coalition is committed to supporting the growth of the marine energy sector in the UK. As part of this we are looking at how infrastructure such as marine energy parks can contribute to this by encouraging the clustering of expertise and industrial activity.

In collaboration with the sector and key partners we are developing a UK-wide marine energy programme to address the barriers to marine energy. The first meeting of the Marine Energy Programme Board which will oversee the process was held in Exeter on the 31 January. At the meeting I stated that I consider that the south-west, with its excellent marine resource, research and development capabilities and marine energy infrastructure, could be a prime candidate to be at the forefront of developing marine energy parks.

### Wind Power

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects wind power to achieve commercial viability. [38391]

**Charles Hendry:** We expect that over time we will be able to reduce support for wind power and other renewable energy technologies as they become more economic, but it is not possible to put a specific timescale on this. The future point at which wind power does not require revenue support will depend on a number of factors, including future wholesale electricity prices, technology costs and the relative costs of alternatives to wind (including the carbon price). Our upcoming White Paper on Electricity Market Reform will set out our proposals for incentivising investment in low-carbon generation.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the total subsidy to wind power that will be necessary for it to become commercially viable. [38392]

**Charles Hendry:** It is not feasible to make a robust estimate of the total subsidies to wind power that will be necessary for it to be commercially viable without support. It would depend on a number of factors including when this occurs and the support mechanism. When this occurs will itself depend on factors including the speed at which wind costs fall (related to the degree of technological learning, commodity prices and supply chain development), future wholesale electricity prices and the relative costs of alternatives to wind.

The renewables obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising large scale renewable deployment. Between its introduction in April 2002 and March 2010 it has provided approximately £2.2 billion in 2010-11 prices of support to wind power.

Evidence is currently being gathered to inform the renewables obligation banding levels from 2013-17, and we are also consulting on electricity market reform, including the introduction of feed-in tariffs with contract-for-difference for low-carbon generation, and premium payments as a credible alternative.

### Wind Power: North Sea

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many submissions his Department received in response to the application for a wind farm at Westermest Rough; and how many were (a) supportive of and (b) opposed to the application. [38696]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department has received 19 representations about the Westermest Rough consent application. Seven respondents have opposed the proposed project: there have been no specific responses expressing support for the proposal.

### Wind Power: Planning Permission

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average time taken by his Department was to make a decision in respect of a proposal for a wind farm after an application was made under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 in the latest period for which figures are available. [38656]

**Charles Hendry:** In the period from 1 January 2005 to date, the average time for determining Section 36 applications for onshore and offshore wind farms was 29 months.

### Fuel Oil

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of levels of competition in the domestic oil market; and if he will undertake a review of (a) pricing and (b) transport and delivery costs. [38736]

**Charles Hendry:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I gave on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 55WS, concerning the off-grid energy market. I am keen that the reasons for the high prices and supply issues affecting domestic consumers

are thoroughly investigated by an independent authority. I therefore wrote to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy. I also asked if the study could explore the longer term consumer issues such as lifetime payback, consumer standards and labelling for alternative energy sources or supplies. Such a study would provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly.

I welcome the independent assessment of the off-grid market to be made by the OFT, and look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Asylum

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers of each sex were subject to the detained fast track asylum process in each year for which figures are available; and how many asylum seekers of each sex applied for asylum in each such year; [38147]

(2) how many asylum seekers of each sex subject to the detained fast track process were moved to the standard asylum process in each year for which figures are available. [38148]

**Damian Green:** The information requested is shown in the following tables:

*Total asylum intake and applications<sup>1</sup> accepted into the detained fast track process broken down by gender by year of application 2006-10*

|        | 2006  |      | 2007  |      | 2008  |      | 2009  |      | 2010  |      |
|--------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
|        | Total | DFT  | Total | DFT  | Total | DFT  | Total | DFT  | Total | DFT  |
| Male   | 16594 | 1565 | 16537 | 897  | 18674 | 1283 | 1658  | 1674 | 12736 | 2061 |
| Female | 6994  | 463  | 6809  | 523  | 7285  | 517  | 7930  | 510  | 5268  | 531  |
| Totals | 23588 | 2028 | 23346 | 1420 | 25959 | 1800 | 24498 | 2184 | 18004 | 2592 |

<sup>1</sup> Data provided are based on main applicant, first time applications

*Applications<sup>1</sup> rerouted from the detained fast track process into the standard asylum process broken down by gender, by year of application 2006-10*

|        | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Male   | 430  | 274  | 371  | 553  | 618  |
| Female | 180  | 227  | 229  | 247  | 237  |
| Totals | 610  | 501  | 600  | 800  | 855  |

<sup>1</sup> Data provided are based on main applicant, first time applications

Note:

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what interim benchmarks the UK Border Agency unit dealing with older unresolved asylum cases is using to ensure progress towards its summer 2011 target date. [38785]

**Damian Green:** The Agency uses benchmarks that come from the various throughput models that have been in place during the Case Resolution Directorate's lifespan. These have evolved throughout the programme of work to conclude the legacy backlog alongside monitoring the types of outcomes and forecasts for the future. These have been updated at regular intervals.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of asylum seekers who did not immediately report themselves to the authorities to claim asylum on entering the UK in each year for which figures are available. [38907]

**Damian Green:** The following table shows the number of in-country asylum applications received in the UK in each year for which figures are available. These figures may include:

applications which were not made immediately on arrival, but were made at the first practical opportunity; and

applications from individuals who held a valid immigration status when entering the UK.

The exact information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Further information on asylum applications are published monthly, quarterly and annually in the Control of Immigration bulletins and monthly asylum applications tables available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html)

*In-country asylum applications<sup>1</sup> received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 1984 to Quarter 3 2010*

|      | Applications in-country |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1984 | 2,550                   |
| 1985 | 2,705                   |
| 1986 | 3,015                   |
| 1987 | 3,055                   |
| 1988 | 3,140                   |
| 1989 | 5,440                   |
| 1990 | 17,200                  |
| 1991 | 35,815                  |
| 1992 | 16,930                  |
| 1993 | 15,050                  |
| 1994 | 22,600                  |
| 1995 | 29,555                  |
| 1996 | 17,205                  |
| 1997 | 15,915                  |
| 1998 | 22,670                  |
| 1999 | 41,700                  |
| 2000 | 54,380                  |
| 2001 | 46,160                  |
| 2002 | 57,570                  |
| 2003 | 35,685                  |
| 2004 | 26,410                  |
| 2005 | 21,485                  |
| 2006 | 20,030                  |
| 2007 | 19,795                  |

*In-country asylum applications<sup>1</sup> received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 1984 to Quarter 3 2010*

|                            | <i>Applications in-country</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2008                       | 23,210                         |
| 2009 <sup>2</sup>          | 22,475                         |
| Q1 to Q3 2010 <sup>2</sup> | 11,920                         |

<sup>1</sup> Figures rounded to the nearest five.

<sup>2</sup> Provisional figures.

### Control Orders

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the time taken to reply to question 33326, on control orders, tabled on 10 January 2011 for named day answer on 13 January 2011; and whether her Department routinely keeps statistics on (a) the number of control orders issued and (b) the number of those subject to control orders and subsequently charged with offences relating to terrorism.

[38297]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 35W.

### Departmental Libraries

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) certified and (b) chartered librarians her Department has employed in each year since 2000.

[37659]

**Damian Green:** The information requested is not held for each year since 2000. Our current records show that there are eight staff members in the Home Office who are employed as librarians.

These staff are required to have a Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) recognised qualification in library and information management or graduate or post-graduate qualification in library and information management or records management. It is not a requirement to have Chartered status.

The Home Office may also employ further staff members with these qualifications in roles that do not require these skills specifically and hence records are not kept of their numbers.

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter her Department's premises.

[39263]

**Damian Green:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to the Home Office Headquarters, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

### Entry Clearances: Spouses

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spouse visas were refused on grounds of failure to meet the maintenance requirements set out in paragraph 281 (section 8) of the Immigration Rules in each year since 1997; how many

spouse visas were refused as a result of implementation of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 in each year since 2007; and what estimate she has made of the proportion of applicants who were interviewed by entry clearance officers before being granted a spouse visa in each year since 2005.

[39027]

**Damian Green:** The information requested by the right hon. Member regarding unsuccessful spouse visa applications is not held centrally and could be obtained by checking individual records only at a disproportionate cost.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Emma Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from outside the European Economic Area were (a) admitted into the UK on study visas and (b) granted post-study work visas in 2009-10.

[38360]

**Damian Green:** The latest available information is given in the following table. The table shows statistics for a) student admissions (excluding dependants and student visitors) in 2009 and b) entry clearance visas issued and grants of leave to remain in the United Kingdom under the tier 1—post study route (excluding dependants) 2009 to Q3 2010.

*Out of country visas to the United Kingdom issued, admissions and in country extensions of leave<sup>1, 2</sup>, by selected category, excluding dependants, 2009 to Q3 2010<sup>4</sup>*

| Category                                                                    | 2009    | 2010 January to September |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| <i>Students admitted to the UK (excluding Student visitors)<sup>4</sup></i> |         |                           |
| Students                                                                    | 82,100  | 82,100                    |
| Tier 4                                                                      | 188,000 | 188,000                   |
| <i>Tier 1—post study<sup>5, 6</sup></i>                                     |         |                           |
| Out of country visas issued <sup>7</sup>                                    | 4,245   | 3,890                     |
| In-country grants of leave to remain                                        | 34,180  | 25,195                    |

<sup>1</sup> Individuals could be counted in both entry clearance visas issued and grants of an extension of leave to remain if the issue and grant occurs within the same year.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes EEA and Swiss nationals.

<sup>3</sup> Provisional figures.

<sup>4</sup> Figures rounded to three significant figures.

<sup>5</sup> Entry clearance visas issued and grants of an extension of leave to remain should not be summed.

<sup>6</sup> Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

<sup>7</sup> Management information.

<sup>8</sup> Not available.

Source:

Home Office, Migration Statistics.

Statistics for visas issued, admissions and grants of leave to remain are published in tables 1.1, 1.2 and 4.2 respectively in "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom July–September 2010". This Home Office statistical bulletin is available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html)

A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Admission statistics for the first half of 2010 and statistics for visas issued and grants of leave to remain for the fourth quarter of 2010 are scheduled for publication on 24 February 2011.



## Human Trafficking

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to share knowledge and resources with the relevant authorities in India in order to address human trafficking.

[38854]

**Damian Green:** The UK Government are committed to working with international partners to address the problem of human trafficking. Through the EU, we continue to encourage India to ratify and implement the UN convention against transnational organised crime and its protocol on people trafficking. We will continue to raise the most pressing human rights issues through the EU-India human rights dialogue.

The EU has run three projects during the period 2000-10 on human trafficking in India, focusing on both inter-state trafficking in India and regional trafficking in South Asia.

## Illegal Immigrants

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency screens vehicles entering the UK for the purposes of detecting (a) illegal immigrants and (b) prohibited goods entering the UK where those vehicles have been screened or checked for such purposes in other EU member states prior to arriving in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

[38909]

**Damian Green:** The strategic aim for the UK Border Agency is to protect our border and national interests by tackling border tax fraud, smuggling and immigration crime.

Within the BF South and Europe region, UK Border Force officers and their counterparts screen 100% of vehicles for the purpose of detecting illegal immigrants and preventing them from entering the UK. All UK bound vehicles are screened by means of a multi-layered regime, utilising a combination of detection technologies to ensure the security of the common border.

All vehicles entering the UK for the purpose of prohibited goods are screened on an intelligent risk-based analysis at the ports.

All our activities at our borders take place with cognisance as to whether vehicles are pre-screened in other EU member states, as illegal immigrants can enter a vehicle at any point during their journey through any borders.

## Illegal Immigrants: Asylum

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons who have been returned to their country of origin have subsequently (a) applied to enter the United Kingdom, (b) been granted permission to enter the UK and (c) been found to have entered the UK illegally in each year for which figures are available.

[38930]

**Damian Green:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained by checking individual records only at a disproportionate cost.

## Immigration Controls

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to increase levels of immigration control at border entry points.

[38326]

**Damian Green:** We are continually strengthening and modernising our border controls, to improve our ability to prevent those who do not qualify for entry to the UK from doing so, while continuing to welcome those who wish to travel to the UK legitimately to visit, work or study. Measures we have already taken include maintaining the strength of our visa regimes; maintaining immigration liaison officers at airports overseas and the juxtaposed immigration controls in France and Belgium; as well as the continued development of e-borders and evolution of the points based system. We will also create a dedicated border police command, as part of the new National Crime Agency, to enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place at each port in the UK to detect (a) illegal immigrants and (b) prohibited items from entering the UK.

[38913]

**Damian Green:** UK Border Agency (UKBA) officers carry out detection duties at ports and airports across the UK and at our juxtaposed controls in France and Belgium. Officers have at their disposal hi-tech search equipment.

Specially trained officers deploy an array of search techniques including the use of body detection dogs, carbon dioxide detectors and heartbeat monitors as well as visual searches to find those seeking to enter the UK clandestinely.

UK Border Agency officers work at the frontier to detect and disrupt smuggling of a wide range of goods. UKBA take a targeted risk-based approach to intervention that is intelligence led and use a variety of detection technologies to scan and examine baggage, vehicles and freight. This includes up-to-date x-ray and trace detection technology coupled with the use of detector dogs.

## Litigation

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments (a) her Department's agencies and (b) the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible paid to persons other than employees in lieu of litigation in each of the last three years.

[38589]

**Damian Green:** The information, at the requested level of detail, cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department does disclose the total number and amount of special payments made within the published Resource Accounts. However, this disclosure includes all types of special payment (i.e. payments made in lieu of litigation as well as those directed by a court). Separately identifying payments made in lieu of litigation on an individual case basis would incur disproportionate cost.

The total of all special payments made throughout each of the years for the consolidated Home Office (core and agencies) is set out in the following table:

|         | Number of special payments | Value of special payments (£ million) |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2009-10 | 1,913                      | 13,491                                |
| 2008-09 | 744                        | 3,242                                 |
| 2007-08 | 1,155                      | 2,668                                 |

#### Police: Roles

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the contribution by the Minister for Policing on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 211WH, what definition her Department uses for (a) back office, (b) middle office and (c) frontline police roles; and what the title is of each role in each such category. [26080]

**Nick Herbert [holding answer 23 November 2010]:** There is no formally agreed definition of frontline, middle office and back office services, although these are terms in relatively common use across the police service. Consideration is being given, with the police service, to the establishment of a common definition. Although no fixed definition exists, frontline officers and staff are generally those directly involved in the

public crime fighting face of the force. This includes neighbourhood policing, response policing and criminal investigation. Middle office services include a variety of functions which provide direct support to the frontline, such as police training and criminal justice administration. Back office services are those which keep police forces running smoothly such as finance and HR. Forces should focus on maintaining and improving frontline services, while reducing costs as much as possible in middle and back office support functions, consistent with supporting frontline services. Police forces can also maintain and improve frontline services by enabling frontline officers and staff to work more efficiently and effectively.

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force hold positions classified as (a) operational, (b) operational support and (c) organisational support. [32125]

**Nick Herbert:** The most recent figures on the numbers of officers in these three categories in each police force area in England and Wales as at 31 March 2010, are contained in the following table. The functional group categories were introduced in 1999 and definitions of each category are provided in note 2 of the table. The functional group data have not been published as National Statistics; they are provisional and have not been confirmed with police forces.

Police officer strength<sup>1</sup> as at 31 March 2010 by functional group<sup>2</sup>

|                     | Operational <sup>2</sup> | Operational support <sup>2</sup> | Organisational support <sup>2</sup> | Total strength <sup>3</sup> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Avon and Somerset   | 3,072                    | 152                              | 77                                  | 3,301                       |
| Bedfordshire        | 1,168                    | 64                               | 14                                  | 1,246                       |
| Cambridgeshire      | 1,289                    | 89                               | 93                                  | 1,471                       |
| Cheshire            | 1,840                    | 247                              | 68                                  | 2,155                       |
| Cleveland           | 1,342                    | 298                              | 84                                  | 1,724                       |
| Cumbria             | 1,176                    | 44                               | 18                                  | 1,238                       |
| Derbyshire          | 1,942                    | 107                              | 25                                  | 2,074                       |
| Devon and Cornwall  | 3,335                    | 177                              | 45                                  | 3,556                       |
| Dorset              | 1,276                    | 196                              | 15                                  | 1,486                       |
| Durham              | 1,358                    | 82                               | 67                                  | 1,507                       |
| Dyfed-Powys         | 1,081                    | 70                               | 44                                  | 1,195                       |
| Essex               | 3,479                    | 107                              | 20                                  | 3,606                       |
| Gloucestershire     | 1,168                    | 135                              | 6                                   | 1,309                       |
| Greater Manchester  | 7,153                    | 825                              | 170                                 | 8,148                       |
| Gwent               | 1,283                    | 10                               | 144                                 | 1,437                       |
| Hampshire           | 3,297                    | 346                              | 104                                 | 3,748                       |
| Hertfordshire       | 1,992                    | 107                              | 31                                  | 2,130                       |
| Humberside          | 1,856                    | 140                              | 61                                  | 2,058                       |
| Kent                | 3,424                    | 263                              | 100                                 | 3,787                       |
| Lancashire          | 3,293                    | 282                              | 74                                  | 3,649                       |
| Leicestershire      | 2,113                    | 156                              | 48                                  | 2,317                       |
| Lincolnshire        | 1,131                    | 44                               | 32                                  | 1,206                       |
| London, City of     | 814                      | 19                               | 20                                  | 852                         |
| Merseyside          | 4,029                    | 342                              | 146                                 | 4,516                       |
| Metropolitan Police | 25,507                   | 7,037                            | 823                                 | 33,367                      |
| Norfolk             | 1,550                    | 89                               | 23                                  | 1,662                       |
| Northamptonshire    | 1,281                    | 41                               | 21                                  | 1,343                       |
| Northumbria         | 3,916                    | 247                              | 24                                  | 4,187                       |
| North Wales         | 1,430                    | 121                              | 39                                  | 1,590                       |
| North Yorkshire     | 1,371                    | 89                               | 26                                  | 1,486                       |
| Nottinghamshire     | 2,310                    | 85                               | 14                                  | 2,409                       |

Police officer strength<sup>1</sup> as at 31 March 2010 by functional group<sup>2</sup>

|                                             | Operational <sup>2</sup> | Operational support <sup>2</sup> | Organisational support <sup>2</sup> | Total strength <sup>3</sup> |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| South Wales                                 | 2,798                    | 290                              | 60                                  | 3,148                       |
| South Yorkshire                             | 2,782                    | 82                               | 89                                  | 2,953                       |
| Staffordshire                               | 1,951                    | 161                              | 48                                  | 2,160                       |
| Suffolk                                     | 1,209                    | 29                               | 8                                   | 1,246                       |
| Surrey                                      | 1,723                    | 76                               | 91                                  | 1,890                       |
| Sussex                                      | 2,962                    | 134                              | 118                                 | 3,213                       |
| Thames Valley                               | 3,760                    | 432                              | 242                                 | 4,434                       |
| Warwickshire                                | 901                      | 64                               | 8                                   | 973                         |
| West Mercia                                 | 2,232                    | 140                              | 20                                  | 2,391                       |
| West Midlands                               | 7,857                    | 626                              | 143                                 | 8,626                       |
| West Yorkshire                              | 5,577                    | 156                              | 26                                  | 5,759                       |
| Wiltshire                                   | 1,008                    | 149                              | 24                                  | 1,181                       |
| Total of all 43 forces in England and Wales | 126,035                  | 14,347                           | 3,352                               | 143,734                     |

<sup>1</sup> Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals and the sums of the constituent items.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers of officers with predominant function in one of the three functional groups, which are defined (see below) according to how directly the officer's function is meeting the overarching aims of the police service. The functional group figures are not published, and should be treated as provisional as they have not been verified with police forces (unlike the total strength figures—see note 3 below).

Operational: any member of staff, including covert staff, whose primary role (ie over 50% of their time) is directly to deliver the overarching aims of the police service. To 'directly deliver' the role must involve routine and immediate interface (either face to face or by telephone) with the public. Covert operational staff in such roles can be considered as frontline service providers.

Operational support: any member of staff whose primary role is to support the delivery of the overarching aims of the police service.

Organisational support: any member of staff whose primary role is to service the internal needs of the organisation.

<sup>3</sup> The total strength figures have been verified with police forces, and are published in the Home Office statistical bulletin "Police Service

Strength England and Wales, 31 March 2010", available online at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1410.pdf](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1410.pdf)

Source:

Home Office (from ADR 571 return received from police forces).

#### Roads: Accidents

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many road traffic accidents involving (a) serious injury and (b) fatality were recorded in each police authority area in each of the last five years.

[37996]

**Mike Penning:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is given in the following table:

Reported personal injury road accidents, by severity and police force: Great Britain: 2005-09

| Police force       | Serious |        |        |        |        | Fatal |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                    | 2005    | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  |
| Great Britain      | 25,029  | 24,946 | 24,322 | 23,121 | 21,997 | 2,913 | 2,926 | 2,714 | 2,341 | 2,057 |
| Avon and Somerset  | 630     | 559    | 561    | 451    | 421    | 69    | 77    | 68    | 67    | 62    |
| Bedfordshire       | 218     | 218    | 218    | 209    | 198    | 27    | 30    | 27    | 25    | 20    |
| Cambridgeshire     | 467     | 398    | 386    | 365    | 406    | 61    | 58    | 72    | 52    | 23    |
| Cheshire           | 608     | 565    | 491    | 557    | 501    | 68    | 59    | 43    | 56    | 37    |
| City of London     | 39      | 58     | 44     | 49     | 41     | 1     | 1     | 2     | 2     | 2     |
| Cleveland          | 184     | 222    | 163    | 170    | 163    | 19    | 18    | 15    | 17    | 12    |
| Cumbria            | 311     | 233    | 203    | 208    | 204    | 35    | 49    | 42    | 24    | 21    |
| Derbyshire         | 468     | 476    | 490    | 441    | 466    | 57    | 45    | 46    | 40    | 42    |
| Devon and Cornwall | 476     | 509    | 559    | 432    | 342    | 95    | 86    | 79    | 72    | 56    |
| Dorset             | 308     | 294    | 356    | 363    | 313    | 36    | 36    | 31    | 32    | 24    |
| Durham             | 224     | 222    | 196    | 176    | 203    | 32    | 29    | 28    | 19    | 17    |
| Essex              | 916     | 927    | 851    | 708    | 692    | 84    | 90    | 75    | 69    | 55    |
| Gloucestershire    | 185     | 193    | 200    | 198    | 185    | 44    | 36    | 37    | 30    | 18    |
| Greater Manchester | 894     | 785    | 778    | 740    | 664    | 81    | 86    | 89    | 57    | 69    |
| Hampshire          | 722     | 724    | 774    | 747    | 816    | 79    | 67    | 87    | 65    | 41    |
| Hertfordshire      | 447     | 411    | 431    | 379    | 321    | 54    | 39    | 49    | 32    | 34    |
| Humberside         | 530     | 486    | 504    | 470    | 405    | 61    | 48    | 44    | 40    | 35    |
| Kent               | 597     | 604    | 587    | 540    | 555    | 97    | 81    | 91    | 61    | 64    |
| Lancashire         | 829     | 917    | 844    | 765    | 736    | 85    | 61    | 51    | 70    | 48    |
| Leicestershire     | 288     | 279    | 265    | 277    | 286    | 56    | 66    | 61    | 53    | 44    |



## Reported personal injury road accidents, by severity and police force: Great Britain: 2005-09

| Police force          | Serious |       |       |       |       | Fatal |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
|                       | 2005    | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2005  | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Lincolnshire          | 280     | 259   | 269   | 243   | 342   | 59    | 55   | 65   | 49   | 44   |
| Merseyside            | 598     | 531   | 462   | 448   | 465   | 57    | 43   | 29   | 42   | 41   |
| Metropolitan Police   | 3,138   | 3,363 | 3,224 | 3,012 | 2,787 | 204   | 220  | 209  | 194  | 174  |
| Norfolk               | 398     | 366   | 336   | 304   | 291   | 59    | 61   | 54   | 38   | 49   |
| North Yorkshire       | 554     | 632   | 595   | 491   | 449   | 81    | 60   | 71   | 49   | 40   |
| Northamptonshire      | 413     | 319   | 348   | 343   | 304   | 38    | 68   | 51   | 32   | 31   |
| Northumbria           | 471     | 491   | 483   | 482   | 504   | 47    | 57   | 39   | 37   | 40   |
| Nottinghamshire       | 629     | 581   | 572   | 538   | 505   | 60    | 65   | 51   | 44   | 36   |
| South Yorkshire       | 539     | 497   | 552   | 464   | 439   | 42    | 68   | 45   | 51   | 37   |
| Staffordshire         | 301     | 298   | 285   | 231   | 225   | 57    | 72   | 64   | 45   | 46   |
| Suffolk               | 297     | 274   | 236   | 309   | 281   | 33    | 40   | 36   | 29   | 37   |
| Surrey                | 459     | 440   | 455   | 424   | 467   | 57    | 46   | 55   | 43   | 39   |
| Sussex                | 784     | 817   | 849   | 827   | 804   | 97    | 96   | 64   | 75   | 61   |
| Thames Valley         | 789     | 876   | 846   | 767   | 775   | 130   | 132  | 111  | 89   | 78   |
| Warwickshire          | 310     | 291   | 312   | 264   | 238   | 37    | 40   | 39   | 43   | 26   |
| West Mercia           | 521     | 461   | 476   | 393   | 378   | 86    | 67   | 73   | 64   | 69   |
| West Midlands         | 920     | 914   | 955   | 856   | 846   | 82    | 92   | 67   | 56   | 65   |
| West Yorkshire        | 884     | 923   | 928   | 937   | 801   | 92    | 102  | 64   | 63   | 77   |
| Wiltshire             | 258     | 300   | 235   | 267   | 253   | 36    | 37   | 57   | 39   | 31   |
| Dyfed-Powys           | 281     | 275   | 270   | 270   | 258   | 41    | 50   | 43   | 31   | 37   |
| Gwent                 | 168     | 153   | 168   | 164   | 129   | 23    | 17   | 26   | 25   | 14   |
| North Wales           | 165     | 187   | 246   | 323   | 293   | 37    | 41   | 36   | 37   | 20   |
| Northern              | 171     | 134   | 135   | 116   | 120   | 24    | 27   | 34   | 33   | 24   |
| South Wales           | 338     | 386   | 339   | 305   | 265   | 53    | 42   | 42   | 36   | 45   |
| Central               | 142     | 121   | 122   | 148   | 109   | 18    | 19   | 8    | 11   | 10   |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 101     | 116   | 133   | 85    | 104   | 14    | 19   | 11   | 9    | 9    |
| Fife                  | 143     | 162   | 120   | 95    | 100   | 11    | 17   | 10   | 13   | 6    |
| Grampian              | 217     | 165   | 171   | 337   | 284   | 48    | 56   | 35   | 29   | 28   |
| Lothian and Borders   | 407     | 405   | 374   | 340   | 328   | 35    | 40   | 41   | 37   | 30   |
| Strathclyde           | 781     | 869   | 720   | 882   | 734   | 85    | 95   | 87   | 86   | 68   |
| Tayside               | 231     | 260   | 205   | 211   | 201   | 29    | 20   | 30   | 29   | 21   |

## Sexual Offences: Bradford

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of provision of specialist support for males (a) nationwide and (b) in Bradford who have been subject to rape. [32427]

**Lynne Featherstone** [holding answer 10 January 2011]: The Home Office does not assess specific provision of support services for male victims of sexual violence at either a national or local level.

In 2010-11, the Home Office has, in partnership with the Department of Health, allocated over £2.2 million to support the creation and operation of new and existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) around the country. These centres provide crisis support and medical care for victims in the immediate aftermath of rape and are open to men and women above 14 or 16 years of age with some centres also providing services for children. They enable victims to access services anonymously, including a forensic examination if they wish, and to consider making a report to the police in a supportive and caring environment. SARCs also provide

follow-up care, and often refer victims on to other forms of specialist local provision.

In addition, the Home Office has made available £860,000 in 2010-11 to support Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs). ISVAs work with victims of recent and historic serious sexual crimes to enable them to access the services they need in the aftermath of the abuse they have experienced. They provide impartial advice to the victim on all options open to them, such as reporting to the police, accessing Sexual Assault Referral Centres, seeking support from specialist sexual violence organisations and other services like housing or benefits.

In launching the cross-Government vision for tackling violence against women and girls on 25 November 2010, the Secretary of State for the Home Department confirmed Home Office funding of more than £28 million for specialist services until 2015. Of this, £1.72 million will be available each year to support ISVAs in both the specialist voluntary sector and in SARCs.

Specialist services are provided for male victims. Details of these services can be accessed at:

[www.survivorsuk.org](http://www.survivorsuk.org)

and

[www.mankindcounselling.org.uk](http://www.mankindcounselling.org.uk)

### Sojourner Fund

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated to the Sojourner Fund pilot for (a) 2011-12 and (b) each subsequent year in which the pilot will be in operation. [38875]

**Damian Green** [holding answer 7 February 2011]: The Home Office has allocated £2.4 million for funding of the Sojourner Pilot for 2011-12. No specific amount of funding has been allocated beyond that date because work on a long-term solution is under way.

### EDUCATION

#### Pupil Numbers

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what modelling his Department's projections of school numbers in primary and secondary schools are based. [33172]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department makes projections for the number of pupils in primary and secondary schools in England. They are based on population estimates and projections from the Office for National Statistics together with actual pupil numbers collected as part of the school census.

The most recent set of projections for the number of pupils in schools was published in December 2010 in Statistical Release 31/2010—National Pupil Projections: Future Trends in Pupil Numbers. This includes technical notes which provide information on the projection method:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000974/osr31-2010.pdf>

#### Schools: Asbestos

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what information his Department holds on the number of head teachers who have completed training on asbestos in schools in the last 10 years; [34642]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to schools on asbestos; [34643]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the health risk to (a) teachers, (b) support staff and (c) pupils from asbestos in schools. [34658]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department does not hold any information on the number of head teachers who have completed training on asbestos in schools in the last 10 years. However, many local authorities, as duty holders under the Control of Asbestos Regulations, have provided training to school staff and governors. Those who have responsibility for the maintenance of school buildings must be aware and have knowledge of the effective management of any asbestos containing materials.

The Department's guidance to schools on asbestos management is located on the Teachernet website at:

[www.teachernet.gov.uk/asbestos](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/asbestos)

There is extensive guidance and information on managing asbestos on the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) website, including a guide on the Management of Asbestos in Non-Domestic Premises, available at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/1127.htm>

Partnerships for Schools is currently working with HSE and asbestos training providers to produce training for head teachers to make sure they are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Asbestos containing materials should be managed in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 and HSE guidance. So long as asbestos is effectively managed there is no significant risk in leaving it in place. Asbestos which is in good condition and unlikely to be disturbed or damaged is better left in place and managed until the end of the life of the building as this presents less risk of exposure to the occupants than the process of removing it. Asbestos which is in poor condition, or which is likely to be damaged or disturbed should be sealed, enclosed or removed.

The Department has not commissioned any special study into the health risks to teachers, support staff and pupils from asbestos in schools. Evidence indicates that school teachers, as an identifiable occupational group, are no more at risk from contracting asbestos related diseases than the general population. Asbestos in the majority of local authority schools is being satisfactorily managed and the HSE is continuing to promote the need for competence and vigilance on the part of those who have responsibility for the maintenance of school buildings, and to take action where they find non compliance.

#### Sixth Form Education: VAT

**Robert Ffello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 89W, on academies: VAT, whether sixth form colleges will be able to recover VAT incurred to support their non-business activities; and if he will make a statement. [35772]

**Mr Gibb** [holding answer 24 January 2011]: As independent institutions sixth-form colleges are liable to pay VAT but are not eligible to reclaim the VAT on goods and services. This is the same position as for further education colleges and we have no current plans to change this.

### CABINET OFFICE

#### Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has undertaken an equalities impact assessment in respect of his policy on tapered redundancy payments for civil servants over 60. [33381]

**Mr Maude** [holding answer 20 January 2011]: The purpose of the compensation scheme is to provide an appropriate and proportionate level of support for the loss of office or, where suitable, to cushion the transition to retirement. Those members of staff at or over their normal pension age (60 for most current members of the civil service) will have immediate access to an unreduced pension, the majority of which is funded by the taxpayer.

In designing the new scheme I have had due regard to its fairness and its impact in relation to equality. It is, of course, for individual employers to ensure that their

selection for exits—whether voluntary or redundancy—is carried out in a way which does not give rise to claims of unlawful discrimination.

### Collective Worship

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people participated in a regular weekly act of worship in each of the last 10 years. [38507]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply.

We are not aware of any source of data on the number or proportion of people who have participated in a regular weekly act of worship in each of the last 10 years. The Citizenship Survey, does, however collect data on the proportion of people aged 16 years and over in England and Wales who consider that they are practising a religion. Data are available for 2003, 2005, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. Table 1 shows the proportion and estimated number of people aged 16 and over in England and Wales who considered that they were practising a religion.

Table 1: The percentage and estimated number of people aged 16 and over who considered they were practising a religion, England and Wales, 2003 to 2009-10

|                   | Percentage | Estimated number<br>(Thousand) <sup>1</sup> |
|-------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 2003 <sup>2</sup> | 27         | 11,274                                      |
| 2005 <sup>3</sup> | 29         | 12,666                                      |
| 2007-08           | 30         | 13,121                                      |
| 2008-09           | 30         | 13,274                                      |
| 2009-10           | 29         | 13,127                                      |

<sup>1</sup> Estimated numbers are calculated by applying proportions from the Citizenship Survey to the Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates (England and Wales) for people aged 16 and over.

<sup>2</sup> In the 2003 Citizenship survey all respondents were asked 'Do you actively practise any religion now?'

<sup>3</sup> From 2005 onwards all Citizenship Survey respondents who said that they had a religion were asked, 'Do you consider that you are actively practising your religion?' The estimate shown is as a proportion of all people, including those with 'no religion'.

In 2009-10, 29% of people were actively practising a religion in England and Wales. Levels are unchanged on all previous comparable years (back to 2005 when the new question format was introduced).

It should be noted that estimates on religious practice are derived from questions which ask respondents whether they consider that they are actively practising their religion. Respondents are not provided with any guidance on what constitutes 'actively practising' and they are not asked what their active practice consists of in terms of regularity or type of activity. The measure will include people who participate in a regular weekly act of worship but will also include other types of, and frequency of, religious practice.

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39273]

**Mr Maude:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to my Department's premises; subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide detailed information about specific individuals who have been issued a pass.

### Government Departments: Telephone Services

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department issues to Government Departments and agencies on the use of (a) national and (b) premium rate telephone numbers as contact points for members of the public. [36401]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1058W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Mary Macleod), and 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1059W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Vale of Glamorgan (Alun Cairns).

In May 2009 the Cabinet Office Contact Council published a guide to number ranges for public sector organisations and updated this guide in February 2010. This guide includes a recommendation that Government Departments should consider the cost of accessing the service to make sure that citizens on low income can afford to make contact.

We will be looking into tightening procedures in the near future.

### Internet

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of households in each socio-economic group which have a home computer. [38369]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

#### Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of households in each socio-economic group which have a home computer. (038369)

The table provided shows the number of households with a home computer, by National Statistics Socio Economic Classification (NS-SEC) of the household reference person in 2009, the latest period for which data are available. These estimates are based on data from the Living Costs and Food Survey, an annual survey of approximately 5,000 households in the UK.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of households with a home computer, by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) of the household reference person, 2009

|                                          | Households with a<br>home computer | Thousand<br>Number of<br>households in the<br>population |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Large employers and<br>higher managerial | 1,160                              | 1,200                                                    |
| Higher professional                      | 1,680                              | 1,700                                                    |
| Lower managerial<br>and professional     | 4,630                              | 4,900                                                    |



Number of households with a home computer, by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) of the household reference person, 2009<sup>1</sup>

|                                    | Households with a home computer | Thousand Number of households in the population |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Intermediate                       | 1,370                           | 1,520                                           |
| Small employers                    | 1,280                           | 1,460                                           |
| Lower supervisory                  | 1,530                           | 1,740                                           |
| Semi routine                       | 1,640                           | 1,990                                           |
| Routine                            | 1,170                           | 1,470                                           |
| Long term unemployed <sup>1</sup>  | 330                             | 510                                             |
| Students                           | 430                             | 470                                             |
| Occupation not stated <sup>2</sup> | 4,380                           | 9,000                                           |
| All households                     | 19,580                          | 25,980                                          |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who have never worked

<sup>2</sup> Includes those who are economically inactive

Note:

Individual figures have been rounded independently. The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the total shown.

Source:

Living Costs and Food Survey, Office for National Statistics

### Life Expectancy: Females

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the life expectancy is of a woman born in 1954. [39204]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking what the life expectancy is of a woman born in 1954. (39204).

The Office for National Statistics publishes national life expectancy figures for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries.

The average life expectancy for a baby girl born in the UK, in 1954, was 72 years. However, this life expectancy figure ignores improvements in mortality rates since 1954. If improvements in mortality since 1954 and assumptions about future mortality are taken into account, then the average life expectancy for the baby girl would be 84 years.

Furthermore, the chance of survival increases as each successive year of age is reached. This means that a woman born in 1954 who has survived to age 57 in 2011 has an average 32 years of life remaining, giving an average life expectancy of 89 years.

### Social Trust

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on trends in the (a) number and (b) size of self help groups in the last 20 years. [38375]

**Paul Burstow:** I have been asked to reply.

The organisations Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) and Gamblers Anonymous UK both run a number of nationwide 'meetings' for those with alcohol problems and addictions to gambling. We do not collect information of these meetings centrally.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what measures his Department uses to assess levels of social trust; and what assessment has been made of trends in levels of social trust in the last 20 years; [38376]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of levels of social trust in (a) adults and (b) teenagers. [38378]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply.

Data from the Citizenship Survey provide the percentage of all adults (aged 16 years and over) who trust institutions (Parliament, police, council) and who think that many people in their neighbourhood can be trusted, over the last 10 years. Citizenship Survey data also provide recent data on levels of trust by teenagers on these measures (aged 16 to 19 years).

Table 1: Percentage of all adults (aged 16 years and over) in England who trust institutions (Parliament, police and local council) a 'lot' or 'fair' amount, by year

|                         | Parliament | Local council | Percentage Police |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 2001                    | 36         | 58            | 80                |
| 2003                    | 38         | 54            | 80                |
| 2005                    | 37         | 57            | 79                |
| 2007-08                 | 35         | 60            | 81                |
| 2008-09                 | 34         | 61            | 82                |
| 2009-10                 | 29         | 62            | 82                |
| April to September 2010 | 36         | 63            | 84                |

Table 2: Percentage of all adults (aged 16 years and over) in England who think that many people in their neighbourhood can be trusted, by year

|                                   | 2001 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|
| Many of the people can be trusted | 40   | 47   | 49   | 47      | 50      | 50      |
| Some can be trusted               | 36   | 37   | 36   | 36      | 34      | 34      |
| A few can be trusted              | 22   | 14   | 14   | 15      | 14      | 14      |

Table 3: Percentage of all teenagers (aged 16 to 19 year) in England who trust institutions (Parliament, police and local council) a 'lot' or 'fair' amount, 2009-10<sup>1</sup>

|                      | Parliament | Local council | Percentage Police |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 2009-10              |            |               |                   |
| Teenagers (16 to 19) | 44         | 68            | 78                |

<sup>1</sup> Figures are based on the 2009-10 full year data, rather than the most recent April to September 2010 data due to the small sample size for this age group.

Table 4: Percentage of all teenagers (aged 16 to 19 years) in England who think that many people in their neighbourhood can be trusted, 2009-10<sup>1</sup>

|                      | Many of the people can be trusted | Some can be trusted | Percentage A few can be trusted |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2009-10              |                                   |                     |                                 |
| Teenagers (16 to 19) | 36                                | 41                  | 21                              |

<sup>1</sup> Figures are based on the 2009-10 full year data, rather than the most recent April 2010 to September 2010 data due to the small sample size for this age group.

### Volunteering

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what information his Department holds on average levels of volunteering by teenagers in each of the last five years; [38367]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of adults in each ethnic group who participated in voluntary activity in the latest period for which figures are available. [38379]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply.

Data from the Citizenship Survey provide information on the percentage levels of volunteering by teenagers (aged 16 to 19 years) over the last five years and information on the percentage of adults participating in regular voluntary activity by ethnic group for the latest period for which figures are available (April to September 2010), in England.

Table 1: Percentage of teenagers (aged 16 to 19) participating in formal and informal volunteering (at least once a month) in England, by year

|         | Formal volunteering | Percentage<br>Informal<br>volunteering |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 2005    | 32                  | 50                                     |
| 2007-08 | 28                  | 41                                     |
| 2008-09 | 26                  | 39                                     |
| 2009-10 | 26                  | 36                                     |

Table 2: Latest data (April to September 2010) on the percentage of adults (aged 16 years and over) who participated in formal and informal voluntary activity (at least once a month) by ethnicity, in England

|                            | Regular volunteering (at least once a month) |                          |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| April to September<br>2010 | Formal volunteering                          | Informal<br>volunteering |
| White                      | 25                                           | 28                       |
| All Asian                  | 17                                           | 20                       |
| Indian                     | 21                                           | 21                       |
| Pakistani                  | 16                                           | 21                       |
| Bangladeshi                | 10                                           | 19                       |
| All Black                  | 20                                           | 22                       |
| Caribbean                  | 22                                           | 26                       |
| African                    | 20                                           | 21                       |
| Mixed race                 | 19                                           | 38                       |
| Chinese/Other              | 13                                           | 18                       |
| Ethnic minority group      | 18                                           | 22                       |
| White                      | 25                                           | 28                       |

The Citizenship Survey definition of formal volunteering is 'Giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations to benefit other people or the environment'. This excludes giving money and activities related to job requirements.

Formal volunteers are those who have given unpaid help through any UK groups, clubs or organisations via the following activities:

- raising or handling money/taking part in sponsored events;
- leading the group/member of a committee;
- organising or helping run an activity or event;
- visiting people;
- befriending or mentoring people;
- giving advice/information/counselling;

- secretarial, admin or clerical work;
- providing transport/driving;
- representing;
- campaigning;
- other practical help (e.g. helping out at school); and
- any other help.

The Citizenship Survey definition of informal volunteering is 'Giving unpaid help as an individual to people who are not relatives'.

Informal volunteers are those who have given unpaid help to someone who is not a relative via the following activities:

- keeping in touch with someone who has difficult getting out and about;
- doing shopping/collecting prescription/ paying bills;
- cooking/cleaning/laundry/gardening or other routine household jobs;
- decorating or doing any kind of home or car repairs;
- babysitting or caring for children;
- sitting with or providing personal care (e.g. washing, dressing) for someone who is sick or frail;
- looking after property or a pet for someone who is away;
- giving advice;
- writing letters or filling in forms;
- representing someone (e.g. talking to a council department or a doctor); and
- transporting or escorting someone (e.g. to hospital).

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Bangladesh

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his Department's decision to retender for programme partnership agreements on operations in Bangladesh. [38539]

**Mr O'Brien:** We have not undertaken any formal assessment of the impacts of our retendering of programme partnership arrangements (PPA) on operations in Bangladesh. However, we do not expect our PPA decisions to have any negative impact on these operations.

These new PPAs will have an increased focus on value for money and lesson learning and will be better aligned to DFID's priorities.

#### Bangladesh: Dalits

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support the rights of Dalits in Bangladesh. [38540]

**Mr O'Brien:** The UK funds community organisations in Bangladesh that provide help and advice to Dalit people so they can get access to health care, schooling and welfare benefits such as old age pension, education stipends for girls and subsidised food grain. UK funding also helps these organisations to tackle discrimination against Dalits.

### Bangladesh: Family Planning

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure access to family planning in Bangladesh. [38541]

**Mr O'Brien:** The UK is helping to fund a government programme which provides around 90% of all family planning commodities to Bangladesh. Approximately 17 million couples (56%) practice family planning each year, of which about 2.5 million can be attributed to the UK funding.

### Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provided to Bangladesh in (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11; and what support it intends to provide in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15. [38542]

**Mr O'Brien:** In 2009-11, the Department for International Development (DFID) has supported the Government and civil society in Bangladesh to provide basic social and legal services; create jobs and improve livelihoods; strengthen public financial management; respond to disasters and adapt to climate change. Gender and aid effectiveness are key themes across the programme. As reported in our annual publication 'Statistics on International Development' (SID), in 2009-10 DFID provided £148 million in bilateral aid to Bangladesh. Expenditure in 2010-11 will be reported in the next edition of SID later this year.

Detailed plans for future support will be determined by the conclusions of the bilateral aid review, which will be published shortly.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprentices were registered to train as a (a) plumber, (b) construction electrician, (c) carpenter, (d) bricklayer, (e) heating and ventilating engineer and (f) lift engineer in the latest period for which figures are available. [37840]

**Mr Hayes:** Information on the number of apprenticeship starts on each different apprenticeship framework is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January:

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current)

Apprenticeship frameworks do not fall into the categories listed above. The following table shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts in 2009/10 by the most relevant frameworks to the categories listed above. A full list of frameworks can be found in the Statistical First Release.

*Apprenticeship programme starts by framework, 2009/10*

| Sector framework code                                    | Apprenticeship starts |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Building services engineering technicians                | 40                    |
| Construction                                             | 14,070                |
| Electrical and electronic servicing                      | 30                    |
| Electricity industry                                     | 170                   |
| Electrotechnical                                         | 4,660                 |
| Furniture industry                                       | 360                   |
| Heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration | 1,300                 |
| MES plumbing                                             | 5,100                 |
| Total (all frameworks)                                   | 279,700               |

*Notes:*

- Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 except for the total which is rounded to the nearest 100.
- '—' Indicates a base value of less than five.
- Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year. Learners starting more than one framework will appear more than once.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many (a) apprenticeship starts, (b) advanced apprenticeship starts and (c) higher apprenticeship starts there were in the academic year 2010-11; and how many such starts there were in each such category in the academic year 2009-10. [38197]

**Mr Hayes:** The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts by level for 2008/09 and 2009/10, the latest years for which full year data are available.

*Apprenticeship programme starts by apprenticeship (Level 2), advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) and higher level apprenticeship (Level 4+), 2008/09 and 2009/10*

|         | Apprenticeships (Level 2) | Advanced apprenticeships (Level 3) | Higher level apprenticeships | Total   |
|---------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| 2008/09 | 158,500                   | 81,300                             | 200                          | 239,900 |
| 2009/10 | 190,500                   | 87,700                             | 1,500                        | 279,700 |

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011:

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current)

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he has allocated for (a) apprenticeship places, (b) advanced apprenticeship places and (c) higher apprenticeship places in 2011-12; and what funding was allocated in each such category in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [38196]

**Mr Hayes:** The Apprenticeships programme is demand led. Government do not plan apprenticeship places by level but provide funding and forecasts of the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand, taking advantage of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system.



In 2009-10, the planned expenditure on participation in apprenticeship training was £1,042 million<sup>1</sup>. The apprenticeship budget for the 2010-11 financial year is £1,328 million<sup>2</sup>: £780 million for 16-18 year olds; £548 million for 19+. We expect to spend over £1,400 million in the 2011-12 financial year: £799 million for 16-18 year olds; £605 million for those aged 19 and over<sup>3</sup>.

The total volume of apprenticeship starts in 2009/10 was 279,700. This is an increase of 16.6% compared to 2008/09. Of these there were:

190,500 apprenticeship (Level 2) starts—a 20.2% increase on 2008/09;

87,700 advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) starts—a 7.9% increase on 2008/09.

1,500 higher level apprenticeship (Level 4+) starts—a large increase on 2008/09.

We have ensured there is sufficient funding in place to train over 350,000 apprentices in England in the 2010/11 academic year. For the 2011/12 academic year, our indicative forecast is to fund over 360,000 apprenticeship places. The levels that these places are at will be determined by the level of skills employers actually need in their business.

Provisional data show that there were 119,800 apprenticeship starts in the first quarter of the 2010/11 academic year. Of these there were:

76,300 apprenticeship (Level 2) starts;

42,300 advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) starts; and

1,200 higher level apprenticeship (Level 4 or higher) starts.

We are committed to improving, expanding and re-shaping apprenticeships so that Level 3 becomes the level to which learners and employers should aspire. We will also ensure there are clear routes into apprenticeships to widen access to the programme, and clear routes into higher level skills training including, but not exclusively, Level 4 apprenticeships.

<sup>1</sup> LSC grant letter for 2009-10

<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-statementofpriorities200910-nov08.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> 16-18 figures: DCSF 16-19 Statement of Priorities and Investment Strategy 2010-11; 19+ figures: SFA Funding Letter

<sup>3</sup> 16-18 figures: 16-19 Funding Statement, YPLA (December 2010); 19+ figures: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, BIS (November 2010)

### Business Promotion

**Karen Bradley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much and what proportion of his Department's comprehensive spending review settlement he has allocated to the promotion of (a) enterprise and (b) enterprise education in schools and colleges; and if he will make a statement. [38123]

**Mr Prisk:** Since May 2010 the Government have been actively encouraging enterprise, including by doubling the amount of small business rate relief for one year, launching the New Enterprise Allowance and initiating a new programme in universities, 'Enterprising Academics'.

We are currently allocating budgets following the spending review and we will be putting in place an approach to enterprise promotion and education to ensure that our funding will be targeted in the most effective way.

### Construction: Co-operatives

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department are engaged in developing mutual and co-operative models within the construction industry. [38718]

**Mr Prisk:** None.

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's estimate is of the proportion of construction projects which have been delivered by co-operative or mutual organisations in (a) 2008, (b) 2009 and (c) 2010. [38933]

**Mr Prisk:** The data that are collected around the sector do not identify them, and we would be unable to provide an estimate.

### EU Grants and Loans

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the bids received for the first round of the regional growth fund in each region seek to use European regional development fund monies as match-funding. [39149]

**Mr Prisk:** I welcome the fact that there has been enormous interest in the regional growth fund with over 450 bids for support made in round 1. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will place summary information about these bids on the regional growth fund page of the BIS website in due course.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any new regional offices to be established by his Department will have responsibilities for the delivery and management of funds from the European regional development fund. [39275]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) local offices in the regions will not have responsibilities for the delivery and management of funds from the European regional development fund. These functions will continue to be managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in line with the statement by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 48-49WS. BIS officials, including those from the BIS local offices in the regions will attend the local management committees.

### Fuel Oil

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future regulation of the domestic oil market. [38067]

**Charles Hendry:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I gave on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 55WS, concerning the off-grid energy market. I am keen that the reasons for the high prices and supply issues affecting domestic consumers are thoroughly investigated by an independent authority. I therefore

wrote to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy, and asked the OFT if the study could explore the longer term consumer issues such as lifetime payback, consumer standards and labelling for alternative energy sources or supplies. Such a study would provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly.

I welcome the independent assessment of the off-grid market to be made by the OFT, and look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

#### Further Education: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (b) the London borough of Bexley enrolled in a further education course in the last three years for which figures are available. [38665]

**Mr Hayes:** The following table shows the number of learners participating in government-funded further education in Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency, Bexley local authority in academic years 2007/08, 2008/09 and provisional data for 2009/10.

This includes participation across all further education learning routes, including further education, apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams.

*Further education participation by geography in 2007/08 to 2009/10<sup>1</sup>*

|                                                     | 2007/08 | 2008/09 <sup>1</sup> | 2009/10 <sup>1, 2, 3</sup> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency | 6,670   | 6,830                | 6,580                      |
| Bexley local authority                              | 17,000  | 17,800               | 17,400                     |

<sup>1</sup> Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand led funding is available at <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Provisional numbers for 2009/10 (full-year estimates) are not comparable with previous years. There can be significant variation between provisional and final estimates and typically these numbers can be expected to be revised upwards.

<sup>3</sup> Provisional.

#### Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

3. Information in this table is based on all government funded learners.

4. These data include FE, apprenticeships/work based learning, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams.

#### Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on further education and skills participation and achievement is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current)

Near final further education and skills participation data by geography for 2009/10 are due to be published in a supplementary table on the 10 February, available from the SFR at the above link.

#### Green Investment Bank

**Mike Crockart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what forms of energy he expects the Green Investment Bank to fund. [38554]

**Mr Prisk:** We are looking to build a bank with a wide remit, which is able to respond to long-term infrastructure challenges. Decisions around the bank's focus during its early years have not yet been taken.

The bank will tackle financing issues which stem from clear market failures. This Department is currently analysing and market testing a range of energy sectors, including offshore wind, waste, biomass and nuclear. We will make a further announcement in May.

#### Midwives: Education

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of applications for places on midwifery courses were unsuccessful in each of the last five years. [38163]

**Mr Willetts:** The information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Unplaced applicants are counted as those who did not enter a midwifery course, i.e. they include individuals who were accepted onto a course in a different subject.

Unplaced applicants can also include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to University; individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

*Applicants and unplaced applicants to full-time undergraduate midwifery courses via UCAS 2006-10*

| Status                                               | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010   |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Applicants to at least one midwifery choice via UCAS | 5,221 | 5,261 | 7,052 | 7,885 | 11,340 |
| Applicants to at least one midwifery choice via NMAS | 4,460 | 3,340 | n/a   | n/a   | n/a    |
| Unplaced at UCAS midwifery choice                    | 4,363 | 4,319 | 5,449 | 6,130 | 9,154  |
| Unplaced at NMAS midwifery choice                    | 3,915 | 2,878 | n/a   | n/a   | n/a    |
| Proportion UCAS applicants unplaced (percentage)     | 83.6  | 82.1  | 77.3  | 77.7  | 80.7   |
| Proportion NMAS applicants unplaced (percentage)     | 87.8  | 86.2  | n/a   | n/a   | n/a    |

n/a = not applicable

For the 2008 cycle diploma courses that had formerly been recruited through the Nursing and Midwifery Admissions Service (NMAS) were integrated into the main UCAS scheme.

For the 2010 cycle nursing courses in Scotland that have formerly been recruited through the Centralised Applications to Nursing and Midwifery Training Clearing House (CATCH) were integrated into the UCAS scheme—prior to 2010 UCAS did not hold data on applications via CATCH as they did not manage this application system until the 2010/11 entry cycle.

For courses through NMAS, midwifery courses have been identified as those with a course code between 1800 and 1899. For UCAS courses midwifery courses have been identified as any course that has 'B720' as an element of the underlying full Joint Academic Coding System four digit codes.

Applicants have been identified as those that have made at least one choice to a midwifery course. Acceptances are only for those that were accepted to midwifery courses; applicants who applied to midwifery courses but were accepted for entry to a different subject have been excluded.

*Note:*

For NMAS data acceptances have been calculated using the same method used for UCAS, i.e. including accepted applicants who deferred entry.

#### Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on economic growth of the vehicle scrappage scheme; and if he will make a statement. [38891]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department originally estimated a short term stimulus to the value of UK vehicles sales worth approximately £2.1 billion. With the extension to the scrappage scheme with an additional £100 million (announced in September 2009), the revised cumulative figure was expected to be £2.8 billion by the time the scheme ended. This did not take into account the impact on other sectors (e.g. suppliers, the second-hand car market etc.).

An early assessment of the scheme is presented in the report by the National Audit Office: "Department, for Business, Innovation and Skills—Support to business during a recession", which was published in 2010.

#### New Business

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what barriers to increasing the dynamism of markets he has identified; and which of these barriers he has removed since his appointment. [39213]

**Mr Prisk:** Enabling private-sector and industry-led growth are the priority for this Government.

To achieve this, we have already taken a number of important steps—for example:

Stemming the flow of new regulation by introducing a One in, One out rule for new regulations;

Extending the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and launching a Green Paper on business finance, to ensure that small businesses have access to the finance they need to grow;

Reducing the small companies' rate of corporation tax to 20% from April this year and committing to cut general corporation tax to 24% by 2014, one of the lowest rates in the G20.

However, there is still more to do, which is why the Growth Review is currently looking at what BIS and the Government as a whole need to do to create the positive business environment required to enable businesses to start-up, invest and grow.

#### Nuclear Power: Research

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial support his Department has provided for (a) the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and (b) its associated nuclear research laboratories to date; and what assessment he has made of the value for money of such support. [38436]

**Mr Willetts:** The university of Sheffield and the university of Manchester have received the following grants from BIS for the establishment of the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre:

University of Sheffield: £15 million

University of Manchester: £4 million with an additional £4 million from the North West Development Agency.

The grant was made under section 5 of the Science and Technology Act 1965. The centre was established to ensure that member organisations and wider industry in the UK develop their capability and maintain their ability to compete in the global civil nuclear supply chain. The Department will be monitoring the project to ensure value for money is delivered.

#### Private Sector

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken since his appointment (a) to establish the conditions for further development of the private sector and (b) to remove barriers to industrial development. [39297]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government are committed to promoting growth creating the right conditions to support a private sector-led recovery. Among the actions we have taken are:

clear direction and certainty on deficit reduction;

creating a tax regime that is the most competitive corporate tax system in the G20;

creating the Office of Tax simplification to provide the Government with independent advice on simplifying the UK tax system and improving our international competitiveness;

reforming the regulation of the financial system to make the economy more resilient to future shocks;

getting the regulatory framework right, with a groundbreaking new One-in, One-out system began;

maintaining business investment by ensuring that our legal and institutional frameworks are fair, efficient and transparent and provide the necessary certainty for firms to conduct their business with confidence;

a reduction in the small business profits rate and the waiver national insurance contributions for new businesses in most areas of the country;

tackling real and perceived barriers faced by people wanting to start and grow a business including improving access to finance;

creating high-quality transport infrastructure—over £10 billion over the spending review to provide new road schemes and to maintain existing roads; and

rolling out superfast broadband access across the country.



Further details can be found in 'The path to strong, sustainable and balanced growth' published jointly by the Secretary of State and the Chancellor in November 2010:

<http://interactive.bis.gov.uk/comment/growth/>

The paper sets out a four part commitment to private sector growth, which includes:

- providing the stability business needs to plan and invest;
- making markets more dynamic by removing barriers to growth wherever possible;
- focusing the Government's own activities on providing the conditions for private sector growth and investment; and
- ensuring that strong growth is fairly shared and sustainable in the long-term.

The paper also launched the Growth Review, a rolling programme running the life of the Parliament, under which each part of Government will be challenged on what they are doing to address the barriers facing industry, both across the economy and within specific sectors.

#### Regional Development Agencies: Finance

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding allocated to each regional development agency was not legally committed for the financial year 2011-12 as at 1 January 2011. [38731]

**Mr Prisk:** The eight regional development agencies (RDAs) outside London were given indicative funding allocations for the financial year 2011-12 in December 2010. The indicative allocations for the RDA single programme included no funding for programme activities that were not legally committed. London Development Agency has not yet been given an indicative allocation.

#### Regional Government

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what his policy is on the establishment of regional offices for his Department; and if he will make a statement; [39292]

(2) what the (a) function, (b) remit and (c) responsibilities will be of any new regional offices for his Department. [39293]

**Mr Prisk:** It is important that BIS has a policy presence outside of Whitehall so that the Department can communicate effectively with local enterprise partnerships, businesses and other organisations.

The network is still in the early stages of development, but it is expected there will be six small teams in different parts of the country. Locations have not yet been confirmed.

The teams will support BIS's overall objectives, particularly those relating to growth, jobs and rebalancing the economy.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with (a) the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and (b) other ministerial colleagues on (i) plans to establish regional offices for his Department and (ii) any consequent staff transfers. [39294]

**Mr Prisk:** The proposals for ongoing functions have been developed as part of the Government's arrangements for the closure of the Government offices for the regions (and the closure of the regional development agencies). The transfer of staff from Government offices follows the process agreed by Departments and the relevant trade unions. The transfer of staff from the regional development agencies will follow the processes required to fulfil the Government's legal obligations under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE).

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what stakeholders he (a) has consulted and (b) plans to consult on the establishment of new regional offices for his Department. [39295]

**Mr Prisk:** The need for a BIS presence outside Whitehall has been discussed with business organisations and local enterprise partnerships. The Department will continue to work closely with stakeholders as the BIS teams are set up.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he expects to allocate to any new regional offices for his Department. [39296]

**Mr Prisk:** There are no plans to allocate funding to the BIS offices in the regions beyond that required for administrative expenses.

#### Student Loans Company: Complaints

**Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints were made against the Student Loans Company in (a) 2009 and (b) 2010. [38200]

**Mr Willetts:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) records all the complaints it receives and in 2009 it received 2,566 complaints. By way of context, in relation to the 2009/10 academic year cycle (up to mid October 2009), the SLC received 914,000 applications for student financial support. In the same year (calendar year 2009), the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills received 3,070 pieces of correspondence about the SLC although there is a disproportionate cost to the Department to determine how many of these are specific complaints about the Company or how many of these have also complained directly to the Company.

By 14 October 2010, the SLC had received 967,000 applications for the 2010/11 academic year cycle. In 2010, the SLC received 4,491 complaints, while SLC related correspondence received by the Department was 4,198.

#### FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

##### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to improve the operation of institutions in Afghanistan. [38988]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office works closely with both the Afghan Government and the international community to strengthen institutions in Afghanistan through capacity building and reform programmes. We work in such sectors as governance, justice, rule of law and human rights. We provide specific support to the Ministry of Interior, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Justice's Central Prisons Directorate and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

#### Australia: Floods

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the UK has provided to (a) the Australian Government and (b) the Government of Queensland to provide relief from the recent floods. [38713]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on 12 January 2011 and offered UK assistance should it be required. Despite the scale of the floods, her advice was that they did not need international support at this stage.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary met their Australian counterparts in Sydney on 18 January 2011, where it was agreed that the Government would provide experts in flood recovery management and in advanced flood forecasting methods to the Queensland task force.

**Andrew Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth North of 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 16W, on Australia: floods, what requests for assistance he has received from his Australian counterpart since 19 January 2011; and what assistance he has provided. [38871]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The UK has received no requests for assistance from Australia since 19 January 2011. Officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in co-ordination with Whitehall departments, continue to engage with the Australian authorities on the delivery of the assistance already agreed.

#### Colombia: Human Rights

**Gemma Doyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on human rights in Colombia. [36935]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I regularly exchange views with Ministers in the region about Latin American politics and the challenges and opportunities those countries face.

We regularly raise human rights concerns with the Colombian Government. I represented the UK at the inauguration of President Juan Manuel Santos in 2010 and took the opportunity of a private meeting with the President to urge more progress on human rights. The President is committed to tackling human rights with determination. We welcome this renewed commitment and are working with his Administration towards this common end.

Last month I met both the Colombian Vice Minister for Defence Ms Yaneth Giha and the Colombian Deputy Foreign Minister Ms Patti Londoño. We discussed human rights, including ways in which the UK can support efforts to improve the situation.

#### Departmental Marketing

**Conor Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37240]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no central record of having produced branded coasters except as part of consular travel safety campaigns. These campaigns help ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens abroad. Consular work is not funded by direct taxation, but by consular fees and the passport premium. In 2009-10 the cost of these coasters worldwide was £6,042 for 110,000 units (average cost of 5p per unit).

#### Departmental Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37375]

**Alistair Burt:** Regulations are a specific type of statutory instrument. These are rarely sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and no regulations have been made or revoked by the FCO since May 2010.

However, the FCO have been responsible for the revocation or proposed revocation of the following items of secondary legislation since May 2010:

Geneva Conventions Act (Colonial Territories) Order 1959 (revoked on 15 January 2011)

Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act (Overseas Territories) Order 2002 (revoked on 15 January 2011)

The Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution (Interim Amendment) (Amendment) Order 2009 (revoked on such date as the Governor of Turks and Caicos Islands, acting in his discretion, may appoint by proclamation published in the official *Gazette* of Turks and Caicos Islands)

The Montserrat Constitution Order 1989 (revoked on such date as the Governor of Montserrat, acting in his discretion, may appoint by proclamation published in the official *Gazette* of Montserrat)

The Montserrat Constitution (Amendment) Order 2000 (revoked on such date as the Governor of Montserrat, acting in his discretion, may appoint by proclamation published in the official *Gazette* of Montserrat).

#### EU Institutions: Secondment

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 156W, on the European External Action Service, what his estimate is of the number of staff from his Department who will be required to be seconded to all European Union institutions in order for British representation to be proportionate to the size of the UK population. [37547]

**Mr Lidington:** We do not currently hold exact figures for permanent staff working within all EU institutions: indicatively however, there are approximately 23,000 staff members working at the European Commission, which employs the majority of those working for the EU institutions. Of these, 6% are UK citizens. The UK represents 12% of the total EU population.

The Government do not propose to make up this gap predominantly by means of secondments from this Department. We are undertaking a broad promotion drive communicating the benefits of a career in the EU to young UK professionals, graduates and undergraduates. This is part of the cross-Whitehall Success in the EU project launched in EU Careers Month on 7 February 2011, at a Foreign and Commonwealth Office event held for graduates interested in working within the EU institutions.

#### **Egypt: Politics and Government**

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of instability in Egypt on UK relations with Israel. [38307]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK remains a firm friend of Israel. The situation in Egypt does not change that. We remain of the view that there needs to be progress on the middle east peace process. We are working closely with the US and the EU to see a return to direct negotiations.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the effect of the current political situation in Egypt on that country's ability to curb the smuggling of weapons to Hamas. [38366]

**Alistair Burt:** We are gravely concerned by the ongoing political unrest in Egypt. There has also been some unrest close to the Egyptian border with Gaza.

We are aware of reports that the Egyptian army, deployed to the Sinai with Israeli agreement, has acted to close down the tunnels to Gaza. We are unable to verify these reports and at present, it is unclear whether recent events in Cairo and Alexandria have impacted on the Egyptian Army's capacity elsewhere in the country.

#### **European Parliament: Location**

**Conor Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the coalition agreement, section 13, point 7, what representations he has made at the Council of Ministers to press for the European Parliament to sit only in Brussels. [39152]

**Mr Lidington:** I have raised this issue in bilateral discussions with ministerial counterparts in other EU member states, with the European Commission and the European Parliament, and will continue to press for the European Parliament to have only one seat, in Brussels.

#### **European Union**

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the repatriation of powers and competences from the European Union. [38899]

**Mr Lidington:** As I stated in the House on 1 February 2011, the Government are committed to examining the existing balance of competences and what they mean for Britain. We will continue to look at that issue. This review needs to be undertaken before we can determine the way forward or hold discussions at ministerial level.

#### **France: Military Alliances**

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next bilateral summit with France to discuss defence co-operation will take place. [39198]

**Mr Lidington:** No date has yet been set for the 2011 annual UK-France summit, which is likely to cover a wide range of issues, including defence co-operation.

#### **Iran: Nuclear Power**

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the role of multinational institutions in curbing the development of a nuclear weapons capability in Iran. [38980]

**Alistair Burt:** International sanctions, including those adopted by the UN and the EU, show the strength of international concerns about Iran's nuclear programme. It is clear that sanctions are having an impact. Iran is finding it increasingly difficult to acquire access to goods of proliferation concern and is also finding it hard to access international finance, restricting its ability to fund its nuclear programme.

Inspections and reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continue to reveal the progress of Iran's nuclear programme and highlight the areas where Iran is refusing to co-operate with the IAEA or comply with its safeguards obligations. This ensures that IAEA concerns over possible military dimensions to the Iranian programme are available for all to see.

#### **Kosovo: War Crimes**

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department received reports of incidences of organ trafficking during British involvement in Kosovo. [39078]

**Mr Lidington:** The Government are aware of public allegations of organ trafficking in Kosovo, including those in the book written by Carla del Ponte, former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and those in the Council of Europe report written by Senator Dick Marty. I welcome the opening of preliminary investigations by the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) into these allegations and call on all relevant organisations and individuals to respond without delay to any EULEX request for evidence.

UK reporting during the requested period is not held centrally. Officials have been checking historical files and continue to do so. Nothing we have seen to date suggests that the Government of the day were aware of these allegations.



**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department offered assistance to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo on issues relating to (a) war crimes and (b) organ trafficking in the last five years. [39079]

**Mr Lidington:** The UK fully supports the work of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), including its investigations into war crimes and organ trafficking. Our assistance is provided through our contribution to EU funding of the mission and by British secondments, including the deputy head of Mission, prosecutors and judges.

#### Tibet: Human Rights

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the human rights situation in Tibet of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue since its inception. [38314]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Government continue to monitor the situation in Tibet carefully and use the dialogue to raise their concerns. The dialogue is one part of the Government's wider, comprehensive strategy of engagement with China on human rights issues, which includes our support for project work on the ground in China and ministerial engagement with the Chinese Government at the highest political levels.

#### UK Membership of EU

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department was of the UK's membership of the Council of Europe in each year for which figures are available; and what proportion of such expenditure related to the (a) European Court of Human Rights and (b) Parliamentary Assembly for the Council of Europe. [38901]

**Mr Lidington:** The available figures from 2005-10 are shown in the following table.

|      | Total FCO/UK contribution to the Council of Europe general budget | Allocation to parliamentary assembly | Allocation to Court |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2005 | 22,908,766.09                                                     | 1,787,644.49                         | 4,944,541.78        |
| 2006 | 23,257,480.03                                                     | 1,825,013.13                         | 5,190,311.64        |
| 2007 | 23,963,090.86                                                     | 1,825,890.51                         | 5,747,820.44        |
| 2008 | 24,159,950.92                                                     | 1,785,771.06                         | 5,110,566.52        |
| 2009 | 24,433,778.38                                                     | 1,760,946.71                         | 5,418,777.63        |
| 2010 | 24,874,186.33                                                     | 1,753,433.96                         | 5,674,717.28        |

#### TREASURY

##### Government Debt

19. **David Rutley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the level of Government debt. [38636]

**Justine Greening:** The latest public sector finance release shows that public sector net debt (PSND) as at 31 December 2010 was £889.1 billion.

#### Manufacturing Growth

20. **Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the prospects for growth of the manufacturing sector. [38637]

**Mr Gauke:** The independent Office for Budget Responsibility is responsible for the official economic and fiscal forecast. Returning the UK to sustainable economic growth is the Government's overriding priority and will form the basis of the Government's agenda for the rest of the Parliament. This includes a strongly performing manufacturing sector, helping to support growth and investment.

The CIPs Purchasing Managers' index survey for January showed the manufacturing index at a record high. This was accompanied by a rapid increase in manufacturing output and the fastest growth in new orders in the survey's history.

#### Gold and Foreign Currency Reserves

21. **Mr Spencer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the level of gold and foreign currency reserves. [38638]

**Justine Greening:** The UK's official holdings of reserves are released on a monthly basis by HM Treasury. As of the end of January 2011 the UK's gross reserves stood at \$82.04 billion (£51.23 billion).

25. **Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the level of gold and foreign currency reserves. [38642]

**Justine Greening:** The UK's official holdings of reserves are released on a monthly basis by HM Treasury. As of the end of January 2011 the UK's gross reserves stood at \$82.04 billion (£51.23 billion).

#### Private Sector Growth

22. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to stimulate growth in the private sector. [38639]

**Justine Greening:** Last year's Budget and spending review set out a credible plan to tackle the deficit and ensure macroeconomic and financial stability. A programme of cutting corporation tax from 28 to 24% over the next four years will provide the certainty and stability that businesses need to invest in the UK. And the Growth Review, reporting at Budget, will aim to create the right conditions for businesses to succeed, removing barriers that prevent them from performing to their full potential.

#### Comprehensive Spending Review

23. **Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review on levels of demand and output in the economy in the next four years. [38640]

**Danny Alexander:** The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR's assessment of the effects of the comprehensive spending review on the economy was included in its November forecast. The forecast was for a sustained recovery in economic output.

Other independent forecasters agree with the OBR's assessment for continued economic growth over the next four years.

The Government are committed to providing the conditions for sustainable, private sector led economic growth.

#### Bankers' Bonuses

**24. Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress he has made on limiting employee bonuses paid by large banks. [38641]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have taken robust action to tackle unacceptable bank bonuses. The FSA Remuneration Code has been revised and now includes the world's toughest rules on deferral of pay and performance alignment and includes an explicit cap on the amount of cash payable upfront as part of a bonus. In addition, the new FSA disclosure rules will improve transparency of pay and facilitate better oversight. These new rules came into force on 1 January 2011 and will cover all payments and awards in the coming bonus round.

#### Banks: Regulation

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will publish the agenda of each meeting that has taken place under Project Merlin; [39209]

(2) how many meetings between (a) Ministers and (b) officials of his Department and representatives of the banking sector as part of negotiations on Project Merlin have taken place; and at what location each such meeting was held; [39210]

(3) what the terms of reference are for his Department's discussions with representatives of the banking sector under Project Merlin; [39211]

(4) which (a) Ministers and (b) officials of his Department have represented the Government during Project Merlin discussions with representatives of the banking sector. [39212]

**Mr Hoban:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The Government are seeking a new settlement with the banks. Any announcements will be made in due course.

#### Debts: Developing Countries

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to assess the effectiveness of the operation of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [39291]

**Justine Greening:** The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010 and the Act came into force on 8 June 2010. The legislation means that UK Courts of Law can no longer be used to pursue excessive claims against some of the poorest countries on their historic debts, ensuring that resources are available to tackle poverty. The sunset clause attached to this legislation means that the law will expire on 7 June 2011. The Government are reviewing whether or not to extend the Act.

#### Departmental Regulation

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37376]

**Justine Greening:** In the last six months my Department has revoked the following statutory instruments:

The International Monetary Fund (Limit on Lending) Order 2009 (S.I. No. 2009/1830)

The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Contribution to Costs of Special Resolution Regime) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 2009/807)

The Iran (European Community Financial Sanctions) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1374)

The Iran (European Community Financial Sanctions) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2613).

The Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 has revoked:

Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/3365)

Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2001 (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1297)

Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2001 (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/1525)

Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/2657)

Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1747)

Financial Restrictions Proceedings (UN Terrorism Orders) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1911).

#### Financial Inclusion Fund

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to extending the Financial Inclusion Fund debt advice service beyond the end of March 2011. [38358]

**Mr Hoban:** The Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) has always been due to close in March 2011. However, the Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the FIF, including the face-to-face debt advice service.

The Government remain committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

**Emma Reynolds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to support debt advice service providers to ensure that debt counselling is available following the closure of the Financial Inclusion Fund at the end of March 2011. [38359]

**Mr Hoban:** The Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) has always been due to close in March 2011. However, the Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the FIF, including the face-to-face debt advice service.

The Government remain committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

#### Financial Services Authority: Qualifications

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements the Financial Services Authority has made to ensure that its staff formulating and implementing policy on the Retail Distribution Review have appropriate levels of qualification. [39300]

**Mr Hoban:** The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is an independent body and, as such, determines the appropriate qualification levels for its staff.

#### Fuels: Prices

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the Northern Ireland Assembly on the effects of fuel price increases on growth of the Northern Ireland economy. [38272]

**Danny Alexander:** The Chancellor routinely receives a range of representations from stakeholders such as the devolved Administrations and the general public on current and future rates of excise duty as well as other issues such as road fuel prices.

#### Immigration Controls

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what evidence his Department provided to the Migration Advisory Committee on the likely economic effects of the immigration cap. [38432]

**Danny Alexander** [*holding answer 4 February 2011*]: The Treasury responded to the Migration Advisory Committee's consultation on the level of an annual limit on economic migration to the UK, through Tiers 1 and 2 of the points based system. The Treasury provided an analytical paper focused on three areas:

- migration and GDP growth;
- the public finance effects; and
- the potential impact on trade policy.

#### Income Tax: Scotland

**John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the number of people paying income tax at 40% in (a) Glasgow North West constituency, (b) Glasgow City area and (c) Scotland from April 2011. [39206]

**Mr Gauke:** The number of taxpayers paying income tax at the 40% rate in 2011-12 in Scotland is projected to be 281,000, an increase of 47,000 compared with the published projection for 2010-11 (available on the HMRC website at the following address):

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income\\_tax/table2\\_2.pdf](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2_2.pdf)

These estimates are based on 2007-08 Survey of personal incomes projected to 2010-11 and 2011-12 in line with the Office for Budget Responsibility's November 2010 economic and fiscal outlook.

The information requested is not available at city or parliamentary constituency level due to small survey sample sizes at these levels of geography, and because the information is based on the 2007-08 survey data which would not be reliable for this purpose.

#### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire of (a) 26 July 2010, (b) 7 September 2010, (c) 27 October 2010, (d) 25 November 2010 and (e) 12 January 2011 on UK Air Traffic Control. [39146]

**Justine Greening:** I regret that the reply was late on this occasion. I confirm that the Commercial Secretary has now replied.

#### Mutual Societies

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to encourage mutualisation in banks and building societies. [38308]

**Mr Hoban:** As set out in the coalition agreement, the Government are committed to promoting mutuals to foster diversity and competition within financial services. Building societies are already mutual. It is a commercial decision for the shareholders of banks whether to transfer to a mutual ownership model.

#### PFI: Worcestershire

**Mr Robin Walker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projects are being undertaken in (a) Worcester and (b) Worcestershire under the private finance initiative; and what the cost to the public purse of financing each such project was in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [38995]

**Danny Alexander:** A list of signed and in procurement PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp\\_pfi\\_stats.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm)

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency, the procuring authority and whether it is on or off balance sheet, as used by the ONS in calculating public sector net debt.

These data are currently being updated and revised data will be published at Budget 2011.

The following table details the five projects which have reached financial close in Worcester and Worcestershire:



| Department                                         | Commissioning body                       | Project name                             | Estimated capital value | £ million                                |                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                                    |                                          |                                          |                         | Estimated unitary charge payment 2009-10 | Estimated unitary charge payment 2010-11 |
| Department for Education                           | Worcestershire County Council            | Bromsgrove Schools PFI                   | 64                      | 8.20                                     | 8.26                                     |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | Herefordshire and Worcestershire         | Waste Management Project                 | 40                      | 33.40                                    | 35.00                                    |
| Department of Health                               | Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS trust | New District General hospital            | 87                      | 25.21                                    | 25.84                                    |
| Ministry of Justice                                | Worcester county council                 | Hereford and Worcester magistrates court | 25                      | 6.31                                     | 6.44                                     |
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport            | Worcestershire county council            | Worcester Library and History Centre     | 43                      | 1                                        | 1                                        |

<sup>1</sup> Project not yet operational.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which projects with a monetary value between £500 million and £600 million he has allocated funding since his appointment [37007]

**Danny Alexander** [holding answer 31 January 2011]: Budget allocations for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were set out in the 2010 spending review.

A small number of projects were announced and the detail of these can be found in the spending review document. However, Departments retain the flexibility to fund projects, subject to the usual value for money tests, in accordance with their funding allocations and will hold information on individual projects; more information will therefore be available through visiting departmental websites or through contacting Departments directly.

In addition, the Government have set out the need for greater transparency across their operations to enable the public to hold public bodies and politicians to account. This includes commitments relating to public expenditure, intended to help achieve better value for money. As part of the transparency agenda, the Government have made the following initial commitments with regard to public expenditure:

Have made more public spending data more accessible through the online publication of the COINS database.

All new items of central Government spending over £25,000 to be published online from November 2010.

All new central Government ICT contracts over the value of £10,000 to be published in full online from July 2010.

All new central Government tender documents for contracts over £10,000 to be published on a single website from September 2010, with this information to be made available to the public free of charge.

All new central Government contracts to be published in full from January 2011.

### Public Finance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the size of the budget deficit. [39229]

**Danny Alexander:** The latest outturn figure for the public sector net borrowing (PSNB) is 11.1% of GDP, or £156.5 billion in 2009-10. Outturn figures for PSNB can be found in the public finances databank on the Treasury website at:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf\\_statistics.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm)

In its 'Economic and Fiscal forecast', published on 29th November, the independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecast public sector net borrowing to 2015-16. This is available at:

[http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ\\_fiscal\\_outlook\\_291110.pdf](http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf)

### Tax Collection

**Sajid Javid:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he is considering to simplify the tax collection system. [38548]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government aims to restore the UK tax system's reputation for predictability, stability and simplicity. To help achieve this, the independent Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) was established on 20 July to provide independent advice to the Chancellor on simplifying the UK tax system.

The Government will consider the recommendations made by the OTS when the final report is published.

## Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 9 February 2011

### SCOTLAND

#### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38960]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office currently has four members of staff who are responsible for internal communications, strategic planning, website, answering media enquiries and handling the media work of our two Ministers in London and Scotland. They also support the work of the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

#### Parliamentary Information and Communications Technology Service

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what Parliamentary ICT's budget is for the provision of IT support for hon. Members in (a) Westminster and (b) constituency offices in 2010-11. [38294]

**John Thurso:** PICT IT support services are provided to all users of parliamentary IT. The total cost of this support is £1.87 million for 2010-11. The service is not disaggregated for specific user groups. However 60% of the calls derive from Members of the House of Commons and their staff, making the proportionate cost of IT support to Members of the House of Commons and their staff £1.122 million pa.

The IT support service is based at Westminster and provides telephone and face to face engineering support on the parliamentary estate. The service provides telephone and remote handling support to locations away from the parliamentary estate, including constituency offices.

There is no specific funding for IT support to Members in constituencies. When required, emergency support for the repair of loan equipment is provided by an external supplier under the guarantee bought with the equipment. Members are entitled to have broadband connection provided to locations away from the parliamentary estate for up to three locations at a maximum cost of £852 per annum and support for this is provided by the external supplier. Two PICT engineers

(included in the Westminster budget) will travel to a constituency office in exceptional circumstances when these external services fail to resolve a technical problem.

### TRANSPORT

#### Departmental Food

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department guidelines on ensuring that food used for his Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25533]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has no formal guidelines on ensuring that food for official Department functions is of domestic origin. However, it is the policy of our catering provider to work with small local suppliers (accounting for over 65% of its fresh produce) where possible, in order to reduce food miles and support local communities.

The Department's staff handbook states that the offering of hospitality should not be regarded as the normal way of conducting business. On each occasion staff should consider carefully what form and extent of hospitality should be offered and if it can be justified. In addition all official expenditure on hospitality should be made on the basis that it is directly and significantly conducive to the furtherance of the business of the Department.

#### Departmental Libraries

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many (a) certified and (b) chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since its creation. [37661]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport does not hold this level of skills information about our staff. However, our library services are run by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

#### High Speed 2: Finance

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits applying to the European Commission for funding for High Speed 2 from the TEN-T programme. [38808]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The report from HS2 Ltd., published in March 2010, indicated that TEN-T funding for HS2 may be possible. HS2 Ltd.'s report is available at

[www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail](http://www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail)

#### Southeastern: Fares

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the 11.8% increase in rail fares by Southeastern for commuters from Tonbridge was almost three times the 3.1% increase in rail fares by First Capital Connect for commuters from Brighton.

[37744]

**Mrs Villiers** [holding answer 4 February 2011]: The franchise agreement sets out the caps that apply to increases in fares in respect of the maximum increase in any individual regulated fare and a weighted average of all regulated fares. Train operators are permitted to decide increases to individual fares so long as the fares increases are compliant with those caps.

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the maximum permissible fare increase for season ticket-holders travelling from (a) West Malling to London with Southeastern, (b) Tonbridge to London with Southeastern and (c) Edenbridge to London with Southeastern on the Uckfield line is under existing franchises and regulation of rail fares.

[37745]

**Mrs Villiers** [holding answer 4 February 2011]: The franchise agreement sets out the caps that apply to increases in fares in respect of the maximum increase in any individual regulated fare and a weighted average of all regulated fares. Train operators are permitted to decide increases to individual fares so long as the fares increases are compliant with those caps.

#### Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Closures

**Mr MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what type and level of written risk assessments have been undertaken in connection with proposed Maritime and Coastguard Agency coastguard station closures.

[38482]

**Mr Philip Hammond** [holding answer 4 February 2011]: There are no proposals to close coastguard stations. I am consulting on proposals for the reorganisation of Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres.

The assessment of risk is an integral part of all policy development. In developing these proposals the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has at all stages assessed every element against the systemic risks to delivery of our national Coastguard service.

As these proposals are fundamentally systems-driven and not location orientated, no separate 'risk assessment' has been carried out in respect of each Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre location, although a range of factors was considered in determining our proposed closures or conversions to 'daytime' operation.

A formal risk assessment covering the overall UK delivery operation will be published this week.

#### Oil: Emergencies

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of (a) emergency planning and (b) contingency planning in place to deal with major oil spillages off the UK coast.

[39306]

**Mike Penning:** The National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (NCP) details the UK emergency and contingency planning for oil spillages off the UK coast; this document is regularly refreshed to ensure it remains up to date.

Additionally, contingency planning for dealing with major oil spills is subject to a major review in light of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010. The Oil Spill Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG) has been established to undertake this review, which will inform the next refresh of the NCP.

#### Sea Rescue

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received representations from the Government of France on his proposed changes to coastguard coverage; and if he will make a statement.

[38060]

**Mike Penning:** We have received representations from the French Government. They were in the context of their concerns regarding the removal of the emergency towing vessel, the *Anglian Monarch*, which covers the Dover Strait area and is subject to co-funding arrangements with France.

#### Transport: Co-operatives

**Gavin Shaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential barriers to entry for co-operatives within the (a) rail, (b) bus and (c) ports industry; and if he will make a statement.

[38215]

**Norman Baker** [holding answer 7 January 2011]: The Department for Transport is in the early stages of developing a framework for assessing applications for employee co-operatives. Applications to form employee co-operatives will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Officials across the Department are working closely with the Cabinet Office, which is developing central guidance for Departments in this area.

No formal assessment of barriers to entry for co-operatives within the (a) rail, (b) bus and (c) ports industry has been made, though we recognise that many of the undertakings in the transport sector are private companies, and in such cases public sector co-operatives might not be relevant.

**Gavin Shaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials of his Department are working on the use of co-operative mutual models of service delivery within his Department's (a) International Strategy Directorate, (b) Domestic Directorate, (c) Major Projects and London Directorate and (d) General Counsels Office.

[38216]

**Norman Baker** [holding answer 7 February 2011]: The Department for Transport is in the early stages of developing a framework for assessing applications for employee co-operatives.

A small number of officials from the Department's Corporate Group and General Counsel's Office have been involved with this work to date. They are working closely with the Cabinet Office, which is developing central guidance for Departments. Wider involvement of officials across the Department will follow with the finalisation of this guidance.



### Transport: Snow and Ice

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with (a) rail operators and (b) airlines on the recent severe weather conditions; and if he will make a statement. [34064]

**Mrs Villiers:** Officials in the Department for Transport closely monitor rail performance and are in regular contact with train operating companies. During the recent period of severe weather, officials were in daily contact with train operators to ensure services were being maintained.

During the worst of the weather, Ministers and departmental officials have maintained discussions with affected operators and Network Rail through personal contact and telephone conference. I have been kept informed of the operational status of rail services during the most severe weather conditions.

During this period, the Secretary of State for Transport spoke to both train operating companies and Network Rail regarding severe weather issues. He also spoke with Easyjet, the chief executive of the Civil Aviation Authority and with British Airways on three occasions.

I have recently discussed the rail industry's response to the crisis at a meeting with senior representatives of Network Rail and the train operators. I have also chaired a discussion on the performance of airports during the severe winter weather within the South East Airports Taskforce.

### Trust Ports

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 265W, on trust ports, what procedures in the Harbours Act 1964 are referred to in the answer. [38319]

**Mike Penning:** As indicated in the previous answer to my hon. Friend on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 265W, the Marine Management Organisation is now responsible for determining harbour revision orders. Guidance and further information on the procedures for obtaining an order are available from this organisation's website at:

[http://marinemangement.org.uk/works/harbour/documents/harbour\\_guide.pdf](http://marinemangement.org.uk/works/harbour/documents/harbour_guide.pdf)

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the role and function of the Marine Management Organisation for the purposes of determining whether a harbour revision order should be used to set aside clauses in the Ports Act 1991 which allow him to require a trust port to change its constitution and enter the private sector. [38325]

**Mike Penning:** We have no plans to review. The Marine Management Organisation is an executive non-departmental public body established and given powers under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Since 1 April 2010, it has been responsible for determining all new applications for harbour revision and empowerment orders.

### CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

#### Arts: Employment

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people are employed in the arts sector in each local authority area in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [38364]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department does not hold this information. However, Arts Council England has provided figures relating to the number of arts sector staff, in each employment category, in their Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs). The 2009-10 figures for the North East are set out in the following table.

| North East           | Permanent full-time | Permanent part-time | Contractual |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Alnwick              | 7                   | 5                   | 33          |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed   | 3                   | 11                  | 6           |
| Darlington           | 26                  | 21                  | 116         |
| Derwentside          | 4                   | 0                   | 170         |
| Durham               | 7                   | 2                   | 456         |
| Gateshead            | 221                 | 340                 | 735         |
| Hartlepool           | 2                   | 0                   | 22          |
| Middlesbrough        | 22                  | 13                  | 199         |
| Newcastle upon Tyne  | 170                 | 145                 | 889         |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | 47                  | 27                  | 210         |
| North Tyneside       | 2                   | 4                   | 22          |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 1                   | 8                   | 93          |
| South Tyneside       | 21                  | 27                  | 88          |
| Stockton-on-Tees     | 23                  | 18                  | 49          |
| Sunderland           | 31                  | 47                  | 30          |
| Tynedale             | 15                  | 16                  | 40          |
| Total                | 602                 | 684                 | 3,158       |

#### Broadband

**Sajid Javid:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of taking steps to assist local authorities in the provision of universal wireless broadband access. [38546]

**Mr Vaizey:** We have adopted a technology neutral approach to our plans for nationwide broadband access. Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) is working with local authorities in England and the devolved Administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, to support the development of project proposals including through the production of local broadband plans for possible Government funding. Technology solutions will vary from location to location but are likely to include a mix of technologies including fixed, fixed wireless and satellite broadband.

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to monitor broadband projects which have been funded by regional development agencies (RDAs) after the abolition of RDAs. [38732]

**John Penrose:** Closure of RDA projects will be dealt with as part of the overall process of abolition.

Where any broadband networks supported by RDAs continue to be rolled out after abolition, Broadband Delivery UK will monitor developments as appropriate.

#### Coastal Areas: Hotels

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department is taking steps to promote smaller hotels in seaside towns; and if he will make a statement. [39201]

**John Penrose:** Smaller hotels in seaside towns will benefit both from VisitEngland's (VE's) thematic marketing which will be promoting coastline and coastal resorts, and from activities associated with 'attract and disperse' marketing which will also include coastal resorts. VE's main priority is to grow the domestic tourism market, encouraging more people to take holidays and make visits within this country. Stakeholders across the industry will benefit from this approach.

#### Cultural Relations: Australia

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on the repatriation to Australia of Australian indigenous human remains held by institutions in the UK. [38926]

**Mr Vaizey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 329W.

#### Departmental Manpower

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff in (a) his Department and (b) Ofcom worked wholly on digital economy policy and implementation (i) on the most recent date for which figures are available and (ii) on 1 January 2010. [38734]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department does not hold information on the exact number of staff who worked wholly on the digital economy policy and implementation.

However, there are approximately 32 staff in Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and an approximate figure of 40 staff from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who work across Media and Communications issues as at 1 January 2010.

Two members of Ofcom staff worked wholly on digital economy policy and implementation on the most recent date for which figures were available. No members of Ofcom staff worked wholly on this area on 1 January 2010.

Other members of Ofcom staff also work on digital economy policy and implementation as needed on an ad hoc basis.

#### Gambling: Internet

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the compound problem gambling prevalence figure was for all forms of remote

gambling taken together, online gambling, online betting, spread betting and betting exchanges, calculated on the basis of the dataset of the 2007 British Gambling Prevalence Survey on the latest date for which figures are available. [38655]

**John Penrose:** The information requested can be found on the Gambling Commission's website here:

[http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/research\\_consultations/research/bgps/bgps\\_2007/bgps\\_2007\\_related\\_research/bgps\\_social\\_internet.aspx](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/research_consultations/research/bgps/bgps_2007/bgps_2007_related_research/bgps_social_internet.aspx)

The compound figure does not include spread betting.

The British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 will be published by the Gambling Commission on 15 February 2011.

#### Museums and Galleries

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many visitors there were to each (a) art gallery and (b) museum funded by his Department in each of the last 20 years; and what assessment he has made of the effect on visitor numbers of the introduction of free admission to such venues. [38503]

**Mr Vaizey:** Since the introduction of free admission in 2001, visits to museums which previously charged have increased by 128%—rising from 7.2 million to 16.3 million in 2009-10.

The number of visits to galleries and museums sponsored by the Department for the last 16 years are detailed in the following tables. Figures prior to 1990-91 are not available. Visit data from between 1990 and 1998 are drawn from the Department's annual reports. Data from 1998-99 onwards have been collected by the Department.

(a) Art galleries

|           | National Gallery | National Portrait Gallery | Tate Gallery |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1990-91   | 3,700,000        | 600,000                   | 2,170,000    |
| 1991-92   | 4,400,000        | 600,000                   | 2,500,000    |
| 1992-93   | 4,200,000        | 560,000                   | 2,200,000    |
| 1993-94   | 4,000,000        | 790,000                   | 2,700,000    |
| 1994-95   | 4,350,000        | 930,000                   | 2,800,000    |
| 1995-96   | 3,900,000        | 820,000                   | 3,000,000    |
| 1996-97   | 4,000,000        | 890,000                   | 2,500,000    |
| 1997-98   | 4,200,000        | 950,000                   | 2,200,000    |
| 1998-99   | 4,800,000        | 994,491                   | 3,033,527    |
| 1999-2000 | 5,000,000        | 996,712                   | 2,482,522    |
| 2000-01   | 4,780,000        | 1,219,167                 | 6,733,691    |
| 2001-02   | 4,859,000        | 1,479,179                 | 5,528,219    |
| 2002-03   | 4,100,000        | 1,319,527                 | 6,332,787    |
| 2003-04   | 4,648,000        | 1,425,655                 | 6,214,869    |
| 2004-05   | 4,909,000        | 1,468,875                 | 6,293,000    |
| 2005-06   | 3,953,000        | 1,528,628                 | 6,412,000    |
| 2006-07   | 4,734,000        | 1,664,894                 | 7,708,000    |
| 2007-08   | 3,912,000        | 1,645,680                 | 7,711,283    |
| 2008-09   | 4,438,900        | 1,833,684                 | 7,475,000    |
| 2009-10   | 4,695,900        | 1,984,500                 | 7,125,000    |

## (b) Museums

| Museums B-M: | British Museum | Geffrye Museum | Horrtiman Museum | Imperial War Museum | Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1990-91      | 5,050,000      | 40,000         | 120,000          | 1,210,000           | 330,000                                      |
| 1991-92      | 5,960,000      | 42,000         | 145,000          | 1,080,000           | 330,000                                      |
| 1992-93      | 6,910,000      | 42,000         | 184,000          | 1,150,000           | 340,000                                      |
| 1993-94      | 6,030,000      | 42,000         | 204,000          | 1,190,000           | 310,000                                      |
| 1994-95      | 6,240,000      | 46,000         | 186,000          | 1,270,000           | 280,000                                      |
| 1995-96      | 6,130,000      | 52,000         | 163,000          | 1,310,000           | 260,000                                      |
| 1996-97      | 6,500,000      | 55,000         | 222,000          | 1,300,000           | 340,000                                      |
| 1997-98      | 6,100,000      | 60,000         | 220,000          | 1,350,000           | 230,000                                      |
| 1998-99      | 4,488,065      | 85,447         | 210,599          | 1,374,103           | 322,977                                      |
| 1999-2000    | 4,368,430      | 104,049        | 186,377          | 1,372,000           | 301,245                                      |
| 2000-01      | 4,589,000      | 85,676         | 116,286          | 1,609,000           | 287,814                                      |
| 2001-02      | 4,813,119      | 82,639         | 150,581          | 1,607,929           | 389,582                                      |
| 2002-03      | 4,623,500      | 81,194         | 250,387          | 1,980,000           | 434,055                                      |
| 2003-04      | 4,622,169      | 86,529         | 272,220          | 1,966,000           | 381,932                                      |
| 2004-05      | 4,778,200      | 79,959         | 303,428          | 2,056,446           | 481,039                                      |
| 2005-06      | 4,485,482      | 79,408         | 282,856          | 1,906,510           | 411,547                                      |
| 2006-07      | 4,902,259      | 76,907         | 429,866          | 1,956,069           | 408,469                                      |
| 2007-08      | 6,049,000      | 80,352         | 477,894          | 1,999,331           | 819,104                                      |
| 2008-09      | 5,472,056      | 86,499         | 483,113          | 2,006,765           | 745,188                                      |
| 2009-10      | 5,650,388      | 93,365         | 621,301          | 2,079,264           | 568,993                                      |

| Museums N-R: | National Maritime Museum | National Museums Liverpool | National Museum of Science and Industry | Natural History Museum | Royal Armouries <sup>1</sup> |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1990-91      | 550,000                  | 1,290,000                  | 2,440,000                               | 1,600,000              | n/a                          |
| 1991-92      | 600,000                  | 1,200,000                  | 2,610,000                               | 1,480,000              | n/a                          |
| 1992-93      | 540,000                  | 1,190,000                  | 2,580,000                               | 1,730,000              | n/a                          |
| 1993-94      | 530,000                  | 1,360,000                  | 2,670,000                               | 1,740,000              | n/a                          |
| 1994-95      | 620,000                  | 1,360,000                  | 2,510,000                               | 1,640,000              | n/a                          |
| 1995-96      | 580,000                  | 1,230,000                  | 2,700,000                               | 1,460,000              | n/a                          |
| 1996-97      | 400,000                  | 790,000                    | 2,540,000                               | 1,800,000              | 394,000                      |
| 1997-98      | 470,000                  | 630,000                    | 2,400,000                               | 1,820,000              | 349,000                      |
| 1998-99      | 482,038                  | 700,000                    | 2,158,462                               | 1,794,870              | 335,000                      |
| 1999-2000    | 874,434                  | 791,355                    | 2,831,087                               | 1,761,000              | 218,000                      |
| 2000-01      | 799,777                  | 710,210                    | 2,822,486                               | 1,691,738              | 235,000                      |
| 2001-02      | 1,004,604                | 823,000                    | 3,061,148                               | 2,196,416              | 337,626                      |
| 2002-03      | 1,208,000                | 1,240,000                  | 4,260,468                               | 2,893,337              | 398,000                      |
| 2003-04      | 1,365,264                | 1,525,520                  | 4,270,255                               | 3,143,935              | 380,000                      |
| 2004-05      | 1,532,690                | 1,537,590                  | 3,815,850                               | 3,328,478              | 432,755                      |
| 2005-06      | 1,512,191                | 1,608,133                  | 3,576,679                               | 3,281,810              | 394,720                      |
| 2006-07      | 1,633,592                | 1,694,065                  | 4,373,176                               | 3,892,878              | 376,269                      |
| 2007-08      | 1,782,405                | 2,167,626                  | 4,384,383                               | 3,779,420              | 443,202                      |
| 2008-09      | 2,089,104                | 2,689,889                  | 4,206,858                               | 3,843,310              | 448,622                      |
| 2009-10      | 2,395,493                | 2,273,612                  | 4,308,258                               | 4,388,944              | 466,987                      |

| Museums S-W: | Sir John Soane's Museum | Victoria and Albert Museum | Wallace Collection | Museums S-W: | Sir John Soane's Museum | Victoria and Albert Museum | Wallace Collection |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1990-91      | 60,000                  | 1,270,000                  | 130,000            | 2001-02      | 86,548                  | 1,862,500                  | 228,991            |
| 1991-92      | 53,000                  | 1,400,000                  | 170,000            | 2002-03      | 86,461                  | 2,532,500                  | 233,918            |
| 1992-93      | 50,000                  | 1,450,000                  | 200,000            | 2003-04      | 94,054                  | 2,689,500                  | 236,255            |
| 1993-94      | 52,000                  | 1,580,000                  | 150,000            | 2004-05      | 87,165                  | 2,471,600                  | 288,009            |
| 1994-95      | 58,000                  | 1,600,000                  | 150,000            | 2005-06      | 84,624                  | 2,195,500                  | 219,214            |
| 1995-96      | 76,000                  | 1,530,000                  | 160,000            | 2006-07      | 92,141                  | 2,874,700                  | 277,648            |
| 1996-97      | 84,000                  | 1,590,000                  | 180,000            | 2007-08      | 93,301                  | 2,623,100                  | 346,980            |
| 1997-98      | 92,000                  | 1,450,000                  | 180,000            | 2008-09      | 96,447                  | 2,490,700                  | 359,165            |
| 1998-99      | 84,998                  | 1,438,200                  | 189,499            | 2009-10      | 107,447                 | 2,746,000                  | 382,773            |
| 1999-2000    | 96,823                  | 1,217,000                  | 171,867            |              |                         |                            |                    |
| 2000-01      | 83,827                  | 1,342,000                  | 255,993            |              |                         |                            |                    |

<sup>1</sup> Royal Armouries in Leeds opened March 1996



### Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons he did not meet representatives of trade unions to discuss his plans for the abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [38301]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Secretary of State has not received a request for a meeting with Prospect, the recognised Trade Union, to discuss the abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). I have received one request for a meeting with Prospect.

Since the decision to abolish the MLA was announced on 26 July 2010, the MLA has had ongoing meetings and regular dialogue with Prospect, and in addition kept staff up to date to the best of its knowledge on the Government's intentions for delivering MLA functions in the future. In addition, on 1 December 2010 MLA placed all its employees formally 'At Risk' of redundancy and started a four-month period of formal consultation with staff and trade unions to enable it to reach final decisions as to the future of its staff.

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he made of options other than abolition when considering the future of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [38302]

**Mr Vaizey:** The role of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has been reviewed on a number of occasions in the past including the MLA Peer Review of 2004 and the Renaissance Review in 2009. The decision to abolish the MLA was made with reference to these previous reviews and within the context of the Government review of public bodies which aims to increase the accountability, transparency and value for money of public bodies.

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which (a) individuals and (b) organisations he consulted prior to proposing abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [38365]

**Mr Vaizey:** No formal consultation took place prior to the decision to abolish of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). Ministers at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport regularly meet representatives from a wide range of cultural organisations and within the context of these meetings the role and structure of organisations in the cultural sector, including the MLA, has been discussed on a number of occasions.

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment of (a) financial liabilities and (b) potential cost savings he made before taking his decision to abolish the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [38414]

**Mr Vaizey:** The decision to abolish the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council was taken as part of the Government's review of public bodies which aims to

increase the accountability, transparency and value for money of public bodies. The decision was taken on the basis that the potential for cost savings outweighed the potential liabilities. Transferring museums and libraries functions to Arts Council England will ensure work is delivered in a more efficient way with a reduction in back office functions. It will also bring together three areas of cultural policy in a single organisation with a proven track record, giving the Arts Council greater influence in discussions about the power of culture, particularly at a local level.

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what equality impact assessment he undertook in advance of his decision to abolish the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [38415]

**Mr Vaizey:** A formal Equality Impact Assessment was not developed prior to the decision to reform the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. However as the work to transfer MLA functions to Arts Council England progresses we are considering the potential impact on equality issues to ensure that there is no discrimination against any particular group.

### National Lottery: Operating Costs

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of reducing his Department's funding for running costs of lottery funding distributors on (a) the number of applications for lottery funding and (b) the success of such applications. [38660]

**John Penrose:** None, because the administrative costs of distributing lottery funding are funded from the lottery, rather than from departmental expenditure. However, the relevant distributors were consulted both directly and through the Lottery Forum about our plans to reduce these costs. Reducing administrative costs should release more money for grants, and I am not expecting distributors to report any significant impact on applications.

### Telecommunications: Visual Impairment

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has assessed the equivalence with telecommunications provision for hearing people of the provision of text relay services for deaf people. [39290]

**Mr Vaizey:** DCMS is in the process of implementing revisions to the electronic communication framework. These require member states to ensure that access to, and affordability of, electronic communications services for disabled end-users is equivalent to the level enjoyed by other end-users. Implementation of new article 23a in the USD will empower Ofcom to specify, where appropriate, requirements to ensure that disabled end-users:

- (a) have access to electronic communications services equivalent to that enjoyed by the majority of end-users; and
- (b) benefit from the choice of undertakings and services available to the majority of end-users.

Equivalence is a broad concept and not tied to any particular service. However, Ofcom is currently undertaking a review of relay service provision for hearing—and speech-impaired—users of electronic communications. A consultation document will be published in the spring and a research report which will help inform the review was published on 4 February and can be read at

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/telecoms-research/ofcom-relay-services/>

DCMS and Ofcom are also currently reviewing the responses received to the recent public consultation on proposals for implementing the revised framework.

#### **Theatres: Repairs and Maintenance**

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what central Government grants are available to owners of theatres for (a) maintenance and (b) other purposes. [39054]

**Mr Vaizey:** This Department does not directly award grants to theatres. Its arm's length body Arts Council England provides funding to a number of theatre organisations, including capital grants which can be used for maintenance and other purposes.

#### **Trade Unions**

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what requests he has received from trade unions representing members in his Department's non-departmental public bodies for meetings to discuss the abolition of such bodies. [38300]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has not received any requests for meetings from trade unions representing members of the Department's non-departmental public bodies to discuss their abolition.

I have received one request for a meeting with Prospect, the recognised Trade Union, to discuss the abolition of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

### **JUSTICE**

#### **Courts: Sunderland**

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 322W, on courts: Sunderland, what progress has been made on the proposed rebuilding of court premises in Sunderland; and if he will make a statement. [38864]

**Mr Djanogly:** HMCS remains committed to the delivery of a new Justice Centre in Sunderland. It has acquired the Farringdon Row site from Sunderland City Council and completed the design to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage D.

HMCS has a portfolio of major build projects, which are at various stages of their development. These are being assessed as part of Government investment and governance procedures and considered against the outcome of the recent spending review. We anticipate the project being able to be progressed towards the end of the spending review period and will include Sunderland in the bid to HM Treasury for the following spending review in order to complete the construction phase.

#### **Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority**

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has for the future of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. [38860]

**Mr Djanogly:** The recent review of arm's length bodies determined that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority should be retained. The Secretary of State for Justice will continue to support the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in its valuable work in compensating the blameless victims of violent crime.

#### **Departmental Information Officers**

**Mr MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38963]

**Mr Djanogly:** The figures are set out in the following table and represent communication posts as at 1 February 2011. Roles which encompass more than one communications discipline have been placed in the most suitable category. The Ministry of Justice Press Office also handles media relations for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

The Ministry of Justice is one of the largest Departments in Government and its work touches everyone in the UK.

Communications support access to essential public information about the services it provides. Communication also provides the relevant guidance and support so that citizens can use our services effectively. It is also right that the public, partners and providers know and understand the work of the MOJ and its agencies and have the opportunity to be consulted on any proposed changes. Communications in all its forms is an important element of this.

Staffing levels reflect the size and complexity of the Department and its public bodies and the need to communicate effectively on a wide range of issues and services. The MOJ Press Office, which plays an important role in making sure media outlets have factually correct information, needs to meet the demands of a 24/7 media.

|                                                                                   | Press officers | Internal<br>Communications<br>officers | External<br>Communications<br>officers | Communications<br>strategy officers | Other positions<br>with a<br>communications<br>remit |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Department and its agencies</i>                                                |                |                                        |                                        |                                     |                                                      |
| Ministry of Justice                                                               | 34             | 11                                     | 4                                      | 5                                   | 30                                                   |
| National Offender Management Service                                              | 0              | 19                                     | 0                                      | 2                                   | 0                                                    |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service                                                      | 2              | 5                                      | 2                                      | 0                                   | 0                                                    |
| Tribunals Service                                                                 | 0              | 3                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 7                                                    |
| Office of the Public Guardian                                                     | 0              | 2                                      | 0                                      | 1.5                                 | 1.5                                                  |
| <i>Non-departmental public bodies</i>                                             |                |                                        |                                        |                                     |                                                      |
| Legal Services Commission                                                         | 3              | 3                                      | 6                                      | 0                                   | 5                                                    |
| Victims' Commissioner                                                             | 0              | 0                                      | 0                                      | 1                                   | 0                                                    |
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority                                          | 0              | 0                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 2                                                    |
| Criminal Cases Review Commission                                                  | 0              | 0                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 1                                                    |
| Court Funds Office                                                                | 0              | 0                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 1                                                    |
| Legal Services Board                                                              | 0              | 0                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 1                                                    |
| Information Commissioner                                                          | 2              | 0.6                                    | 7.2                                    | 0.5                                 | 0                                                    |
| Office for Legal Complaints                                                       | 0              | 1                                      | 1                                      | 1                                   | 1                                                    |
| Judicial Communications Office                                                    | 3              | 5                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 0                                                    |
| Judicial Appointments Commission                                                  | 0              | 0.5                                    | 0.5                                    | 0                                   | 3                                                    |
| Youth Justice Board                                                               | 3.8            | —                                      | —                                      | —                                   | 7                                                    |
| Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation | 1              | 0                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 0                                                    |
| Prisons and Probation Ombudsman                                                   | 0              | 0                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 1                                                    |
| Independent Monitoring Boards Secretariat                                         | 0              | 0                                      | 0                                      | 0                                   | 2                                                    |
| Totals                                                                            | 48.8           | 50.1                                   | 20.7                                   | 11                                  | 62.5                                                 |

### Legal Aid: Immigration and Asylum

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money from the public purse has been provided (a) directly and (b) indirectly through third parties to support legal cases related to (i) immigration and (ii) asylum issues in each of the last five years; and how much has been given to each third party in each such year. [38751]

**Mr Djanogly:** Legal aid expenditure in immigration and asylum is shown in the table. It is not possible to disaggregate asylum spending from immigration for licensed work in cases funded under a legal aid certificate.

These figures include disbursements from which providers can pay third parties such as interpreters and medical experts. However, expenditure on disbursements is not centrally recorded in such a way as to enable the amounts spent on third party services to be identified from other costs such as travel costs.

|                           | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | £ million<br>2009-10 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| <i>Controlled work</i>    |         |         |         |         |         |         |                      |
| Asylum                    | 176     | 140     | 76      | 51      | 49      | 52      | 56                   |
| Immigration (nationality) | 13      | 22      | 19      | 25      | 28      | 28      | 26                   |
| Indeterminate             | 5       | 10      | 3       | 3       | 4       | 3       | 2                    |
| Controlled work total     | 194     | 172     | 98      | 73      | 80      | 82      | 83                   |
| <i>Licensed work</i>      |         |         |         |         |         |         |                      |
|                           | 6       | 5       | 5       | 7       | 6       | 6       | 7                    |
| Total                     | 200     | 177     | 103     | 80      | 86      | 88      | 90                   |

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal practitioners and other representatives of (a) immigrants and (b) asylum seekers received legal aid and other monies from the public purse for

the purpose of representing their clients there were in each of the last five years. [38752]



**Mr Djanogly:** Legal aid funding in civil cases in England and Wales is a matter for the Legal Services Commission (LSC), which is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme.

The following table details the number of legal aid providers (by office) paid for Civil Representation and Legal Help work for immigration and asylum cases in each of the last five years.

|                                             | 2006-07 | 2006-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Immigration Asylum—Legal Help               | 321     | 271     | 263     | 245     | 234     |
| Immigration Other—Legal Help                | 313     | 275     | 279     | 255     | 242     |
| Immigration and Asylum—Civil Representation | 366     | 294     | 260     | 285     | 237     |

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which 20 organisations or persons have received the largest sums of money from the public purse for the provision of legal services in respect of (a) immigration and (b) asylum cases in each of the last five years. [38753]

**Mr Djanogly:** It is not possible to provide the information in the time available. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy in the House of Commons Library.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations his Department has received on the withdrawal of legal aid in relation to immigration matters for stateless people. [38757]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Government are currently consulting on all their legal aid proposals, including the removal of non-detention immigration cases from the scope of legal aid. We have received responses from immigration and asylum representative bodies and members of the public on the immigration proposals, but none of those received as of 4 February have raised the specific issue of stateless people. The consultation will close on 14 February.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the availability of legal aid to applicants for asylum. [38831]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Government are currently consulting on proposals to reform legal aid. We propose to continue to provide publicly funded legal assistance in asylum cases (except asylum support cases). The consultation will close on 14 February.

#### Magna Carta: Anniversaries

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta in 2015. [38612]

**Mr Djanogly:** My noble friend Lord McNally has ministerial responsibility for the Government's participation in the five-year programme of celebrations for the 800th anniversary, launched at an internationally televised event at Runnymede on 12 November 2010.

He is working closely with the Magna Carta Trust to increase awareness of the anniversary both in the UK and overseas in a series of high profile public and media events which will include celebrations in the five Charter Towns—Canterbury, Runnymede, London, St Albans, and Bury St Edmunds—and at other historic venues throughout the UK in the lead up to the anniversary in June 2015.

I understand that a major exhibition is planned for the British Library and, abroad, others are planned at the National Archive in Washington, D.C., and in Canberra, Australia.

#### Pleural Plaques: Compensation

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 811W, on pleural plaques: compensation, how many of the 6,119 applications are from individuals living in Sunderland. [38863]

**Mr Djanogly:** As of 4 February a total of 6,543 applications have been received. Of these, 150 are from individuals applying with a Sunderland postcode.

#### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

##### Audit Commission: Publications

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Audit Commission's visual identity guidelines produced with the assistance of HSAG Design. [36876]

**Robert Neill:** A copy of the Audit Commission's visual identity guidelines, produced with the assistance of HSAG Design, has been placed in the Library of the House.

##### Council Housing

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Homes and Communities Agency on the incorporation of quality standards in decisions relating to the funding and development of (a) social rented and (b) other affordable housing developments funded by the agency; and if he will make a statement. [39147]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Homes and Communities Agency inherited from its predecessor bodies a variety of quality and design standards required when supporting developments of social and affordable housing. The Agency consulted on proposals for a single new set of standards last year, which would have increased some requirements.

We are committed to reducing the burden of regulation on builders and developers, and have also called on the industry to work with Government on developing new proposals for a simplified system, through a local standards framework. As part of this exercise we have decided that the Homes and Community Agency should not proceed with new enhanced standards, instead retaining their existing ones. As a general guide, this has been estimated to save on average some £8,000 per unit.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38964]

**Robert Neill:** All departmental staff employed in communications roles are members of the Department's Communication Directorate, which comprises External Communications Division and Corporate Communications Division, managed by the Director of Communication.

External Communications currently employs 41 communications officers working on a combination of press, marketing, strategic planning and digital/social media. This equates to 39.5 full-time equivalent posts, as some members of staff are employed part-time.

Corporate Communications currently employs 25 communications officers working on internal communication, web management, print/publishing and Info4Local. This equates to 23.6 full-time equivalent posts.

A further four communications officers within Communication Directorate work directly with policy directorates.

No new members of staff have joined the Communication Directorate since March 2010 and a recruitment freeze remains in force. The Communication Directorate expects to reduce the staff headcount by approximately 30% through the Department's restructuring exercise by April 2012.

The Department does not maintain a central record of communications posts at its agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

### Departmental Libraries

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many (a) certified and (b) chartered librarians his Department and its predecessors have employed in each year since 2000. [37662]

**Robert Neill:** The numbers of certified librarians (those holding the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) para-professional award), and chartered librarians (those holding CILIP's professional qualification) employed by the Department since 2000 are as follows:

|         | Certified librarians | Chartered librarians |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2000-01 | 0                    | 9                    |
| 2001-02 | 0                    | 10                   |
| 2002-03 | 0                    | 9                    |
| 2003-04 | 0                    | 10                   |
| 2004-05 | 0                    | 10                   |
| 2005-06 | 0                    | 9                    |
| 2006-07 | 0                    | 9                    |
| 2007-08 | 0                    | 8                    |
| 2008-09 | 0                    | 7                    |

|         | Certified librarians | Chartered librarians |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2009-10 | 0                    | 5                    |
| 2010-11 | 0                    | 5                    |

### Fire Commissioners

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to introduce directly-elected fire commissioners; and if he will make a statement. [39570]

**Robert Neill:** Ministers have not considered introducing directly-elected fire commissioners and currently there are no plans to do so.

### Housing: Construction

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism he has put in place to ensure that the New Homes Bonus reflects the strategic priority in Planning Policy Statement 3, Housing, for brownfield development before greenfield. [38932]

**Grant Shapps:** The New Homes Bonus is a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent incentive for local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing growth. The final scheme design of the New Homes Bonus will be published shortly.

The New Homes Bonus will sit alongside the Government's current national planning for housing policies as set out in Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3). PPS3 focuses on developing brownfield land for housing as a priority, particularly vacant and derelict sites and buildings, as well as surplus public sector land where possible.

We announced in December the start of work to create a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development, as promised in the coalition agreement. This will include planning for housing policy.

The New Homes Bonus does not change planning policy. However, we do believe it will promote more sustainable, locally-led development than the failed and unpopular regime of regional strategies.

The consultation also proposes that the bonus rewards getting long-term empty homes back into productive use.

### Local Government

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statutory duties are required of local authorities. [39040]

**Greg Clark:** Historically central Government have been prescriptive about how councils should serve their communities and virtually every function councils undertake has a legal duty attached to it, set out in numerous Acts of Parliament. The Government are committed to reducing centrally imposed barriers and burdens on local authorities such as legislation, guidance and other forms of prescription.

### Local Government: Manpower

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were employed by local government in the first quarter of (a) 1997 and (b) 2010. [36888]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold records of the number of people employed by local authorities.

The Office for National Statistics publishes local government employment statistics for the United Kingdom for the second quarter of each year between 1991 and 1999 and quarterly thereafter. The number of people employed by local government in the second quarter of 1997 was 2,728,000, and the number employed in the second quarter of 2010 was 2,907,000. It should be noted that these figures include local authorities under the devolved Administrations.

### Park Homes: Ownership

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proposals he has received in respect of the introduction of a fit and proper person test for owners of park home units; [38598]

(2) what recent representation he has received on the introduction of a fit and proper person test for owners of park home units. [38599]

Grant Shapps: I have received a number of letters from park home residents, some through their Members of Parliament, making representations and proposals for the introduction of a fit and proper test for owners of park home sites.

### Planning Inspectorate

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to streamline the working of the Planning Inspectorate. [39241]

Robert Neill: The Planning Inspectorate is currently reviewing its systems and staffing levels in response to the spending review, to draw out efficiencies from the proposed abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission and integration of major infrastructure casework and to provide business-as-usual efficiency savings. Enhanced working practices are at the forefront of this change, to provide value for money services while retaining high levels of customer satisfaction and service. Similarly the way in which the Planning Inspectorate delivers its services is evolving and responding to the need to meet the Government's localism agenda.

### Quarrying: Stoke on Trent

Robert Helleo: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will direct Stoke-on-Trent unitary authority to enforce the ruling by the then Secretary of State for the Environment on 27 October 1993 (ref APP/C91/N3400/612522 M23/1/04) that land at Copshurst Quarry, Lightwood, Stoke-on-Trent should not be worked for marl extraction from that date or any future date. [38841]

Robert Neill [holding answer 7 February 2011]: Parliament has given local planning authorities the primary responsibility for taking whatever enforcement action may be necessary, in the public interest, in their administrative area. We consider that this should remain so.

The Government take breaches of planning control very seriously, and the Localism Bill includes a number of measures aimed at strengthening local planning authorities' powers to take enforcement action.

### Regional Planning and Development

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to provide powers for local authorities to ensure that housing development and related infrastructure development proceed together. [39242]

Robert Neill: Local planning authorities already have a range of tools available to them to ensure that the infrastructure needed to support development is properly planned for and provided. These will be strengthened by the new Duty to Cooperate in the Localism Bill.

### Duty to Cooperate

The Duty to Cooperate requires local planning authorities and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in the planning process.

The duty will apply to the preparation of local plans and other activities that support development planning. This might include joint policies and strategies on strategic infrastructure to support economic growth and new housing.

### Development Plans

National planning policy expects development plans prepared by local authorities to be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to support the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution.

### Planning Conditions and Section 106 Agreements

In granting planning permission for any new development, local authorities can impose planning conditions and/or use Section 106 Agreements to ensure that new or improved infrastructure of the right standard is provided at the right time.

Planning authorities can use conditions which prohibit the commencement or occupation of development until certain specified actions have been completed, for example provision of infrastructure such as a new bus stop or school.

### Community Infrastructure Levy

Community Infrastructure Levy also enables local planning authorities to seek developer contributions. Unlike planning conditions and Section 106 agreements, it can be used to fund infrastructure needs of the wider area, beyond the development site itself. The levy provides a predictable income that offers the certainty local authorities need to plan ahead to ensure infrastructure can be delivered at the right time, for example, by forward funding a necessary project.

The Government are reforming the Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure it is also a flexible system which allows authorities to accept payment in the form



of land whenever it is required, for example, to ensure that land for infrastructure can be secured at the right time.

### Sheltered Housing

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his Department's policy is on the inclusion in local plans of the need for specialist housing for older people; [39019]

(2) what his Department's policy is on the promotion of private sector provision of specialist housing for older people; and if he will make a statement. [39021]

**Andrew Stunell:** National Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing states that Local Planning Authorities should, based upon findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and other local evidence, set out in their local development documents the likely profile of household types requiring market housing. The housing requirements of older people can be included in these assessments.

Based on the housing requirements identified, Local Planning Authorities should develop policies and implementation strategies to ensure that sufficient, suitable land is available to achieve their housing objectives.

Subsequently, developers should bring forward proposals for market housing which reflect demand and the profile of households requiring market housing in order to sustain mixed communities.

We announced in December the start of work to create a simple and consolidated National Planning Policy Framework covering all forms of development, as promised in the coalition agreement. This will include policy on planning for housing.

### Sheltered Housing: Private Sector

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the promotion of private sector provision of specialist housing for older people is part of the Government's housing strategy. [39018]

**Andrew Stunell:** We are putting in place a framework that will promote greater investment in housing, including both general needs housing and specialised provision, such as housing for older people. This will rebalance power from central Government to local authorities and local people so that they can shape development in their areas. It will replace top down targets with fiscal incentives for local authorities to promote development, and it will support private sector growth by reducing regulation on house-builders.

### Supported Housing: Older People

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department is undertaking into the housing needs of elderly people in need of specialist housing. [39022]

**Andrew Stunell:** My Department is not currently undertaking any research into the needs of elderly people in need of specialist housing.

## DEFENCE

### Chinook Helicopters

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Boeing full hazard analysis of the flying controls and associated systems that was carried out with reference to paragraph 9 of the Ministry of Defence Military Aircraft Accident Summary 2/89-Aircraft Accident to Royal Air Force Chinook HC1 ZA721. [38549]

**Nick Harvey:** I will write to the hon. Member. Time is required to retrieve information on the 1987 accident from archive.

### European Defence Agency

**Mr Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on which occasions his Department has used the services of the European Defence Agency for procurement purposes for each (a) year and (b) type of equipment procured since the establishment of the Agency; and if he will make a statement; [37859]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the level of savings which accrued to its budget through using the services of the European Defence Agency for procurement purposes in each year since that Agency became operational; and if he will make a statement; [37896]

(3) what plans his Department has to use the services of the European Defence Agency for procurement purposes to December 2011; what level of savings he expects to accrue to his Department in respect of each equipment type as a result; and if he will make a statement. [37897]

**Nick Harvey:** The mission of the European Defence Agency (EDA) is to support the European Council and the member states in their effort to improve the EU's defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

As the EDA is not a procurement agency, it does not undertake a procurement function on behalf of its participating member states. Therefore, we have not used and have no plans to use it for procurement purposes, nor have we estimated savings accrued to the Ministry of Defence's budget.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the 2008 and 2009 Assurance Reports from the Defence Nuclear Environment and Safety Board on safety in the defence and nuclear programmes; and whether he plans to publish the 2010 report of the Board; [39087]

(2) whether hon. Members will be given access to the Defence Nuclear Environment and Safety Board's 2010 Assurance Report. [39088]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence's (MOD) principal safety body, the Defence Environmental and Safety Board, has assessed both the 2008 and 2009

reports. It concluded that the Defence nuclear programmes are being conducted safely and an appropriate programme of work is in hand to deliver continuous safety improvement against the issues raised.

The 2010 report is currently being reviewed to identify whether any information needs to be withheld. It will then be published on the MOD website at the following address:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DES/OurPublications/HealthandSafety/DefenceNuclearEnvironmentAndSafetyBoardAssuranceReports.htm>

#### O'Brien and Associates

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister approved his Department's contract with O'Brien and Associates of Washington. [38925]

**Nick Harvey:** There was no requirement for Ministers to approve the Ministry of Defence's contract with O'Brien and Associates, which fell within the approval authority of the British Defence staff in Washington. The contract expired in December 2010.

#### Russia: Submarines

**Mr Charles Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent reports he has received of Russian submarines operating in the North Atlantic; and if he will make a statement. [38019]

**Dr Fox [holding answer 3 February 2011]:** Britain's sea approaches are continuously monitored for any threat to our national security and interests. I am withholding further information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

#### Strategic Defence and Security Review

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (a) aircraft and (b) naval vessels will be retired as a result of decisions taken in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [37267]

**Nick Harvey:** As a result of decisions announced when the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) was published and since, the following aircraft and naval vessels will be withdrawn from service:

| Asset            | Anticipated date of withdrawal | Number being withdrawn |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Harrier          | Withdrawn December 2010        | 62                     |
| Tornado GR4      | By 2021                        | 137                    |
| TriStar          | By 2013                        | 9                      |
| VC-10            | By 2013                        | 13                     |
| C-130J Hercules  | By 2022                        | 24                     |
| Sentinel R1      | To be confirmed                | 5                      |
| HMS Ark Royal    | Withdrawn December 2010        | 1                      |
| HMS Illustrious  | 2014                           | 1                      |
| Type 22 Frigates | 2011                           | 4                      |
| RFA Largs Bay    | 2011                           | 1                      |
| RFA Bayleaf      | 2011                           | 1                      |
| RFA Fort George  | 2011                           | 1                      |

The SDSR also announced that we would not be bringing nine Nimrod MRA4s into service.

The final number of military assets affected by the SDSR remains subject to the completion of more detailed work during the Ministry of Defence's annual planning round. This will include, for example, the number of helicopters, training aircraft, and minor and auxiliary vessels required to support the new force structure.

#### War Crimes: Organs

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has offered assistance to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo on issues relating to (a) war crimes and (b) organ trafficking in the last five years. [39086]

**Nick Harvey:** The UK supports the investigations into war crimes and organ trafficking by the EU Rule of Law Mission as part of its wider mandate. Our active support includes a contribution to EU funding of the mission and the provision of a number of secondees, including the Deputy Head of Mission.

#### Weapons

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what (a) weapons and (b) rounds of ammunition for which (i) his Department has and (ii) the armed forces have responsibility have gone missing since June 2009. [37266]

**Nick Harvey:** The following table provides details of the number of Ministry of Defence owned weapons reported as lost/stolen from June 2009 to date, showing, as appropriate, where recovery has been effected. These figures include reported losses in-theatre.

No comprehensive figures are available in respect of ammunition losses.

|             | 2009 <sup>1</sup> |           | 2010            |           | 2011 <sup>2</sup> |           |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
|             | Lost/<br>Stolen   | Recovered | Lost/<br>Stolen | Recovered | Lost/<br>Stolen   | Recovered |
| Pistol      | 14                | 12        | 9               | .0        | 0                 | 0         |
| Rifle       | 3                 | 2         | 4               | 0         | 0                 | 0         |
| Machine Gun | 0                 | 0         | 61              | 5         | 0                 | 0         |
| Shotgun     | 0                 | 0         | 1               | 0         | 0                 | 0         |

<sup>1</sup> June to December.

<sup>2</sup> To date.

<sup>3</sup> This figure includes 59 Minimi machine guns, the loss of which is the subject of a Royal Military Police investigation.

#### FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

##### British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to publish the protocol developed by his Department and the Victim Support National Homicide Service. [39150]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have no current plans to publish the agreement between Victim Support National Homicide Service and our Consular Directorate. However,

I have passed a copy to the non-governmental organisation 'Support After Murder and Manslaughter' (SAMM) Abroad, and am arranging for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

This agreement ensures that consular staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office notify Victim Support National Homicide Service of the murder of a British national abroad if the bereaved family are resident in England or Wales. Consular staff will then advise the family of the service provided by Victim Support and, with the family's consent, a Victim Support caseworker will contact them to arrange a meeting.

#### Commonwealth: Sexuality

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his Commonwealth counterparts on discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; and if he will make a statement. [39191]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The UK opposes discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. We believe that human rights are universal and should apply equally to all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Government Ministers and officials raise the rights of LGBT people during meetings with Commonwealth counterparts. As previously mentioned in my response to my hon. Friend on 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 708W, I recently visited Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago, and raised LGBT equality during discussions with government officials and non-government organisations.

In July 2010, the Prime Minister launched a programme of work which will ensure the UK continues to push towards LGBT equality both at home and abroad. This includes a commitment to proactively question those Commonwealth countries which retain homophobic legislation and to push for unequivocal support for LGBT rights internationally.

#### Departmental Information Officers

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38959]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's communications directorate was staffed as follows during 2009-10. Headcount has reduced by about 18% since the beginning of this financial year and communications is under review. There are also embedded communications staff within Directorates and staff overseas with a communications remit, but details of these are not available except at disproportionate cost.

|                          | 2009-10 |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Internal communications  | 8       |
| Digital/social media     | 21      |
| Strategic communications | 31      |

|                          | 2009-10 |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Corporate communications | 18      |
| Marketing                | 0       |
| Media/press              | 30      |
| Senior management        | 1       |
| Support staff            | 7       |

The British Council's centralised communications function was staffed as follows in 2009-10. There are also staff overseas with a communications remit, but details of these are not available except at disproportionate cost.

| Discipline               | Total |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Internal communications  | 5     |
| Digital/social media     | 3     |
| Strategic communications | 0     |
| Corporate communications | 2     |
| Marketing                | 4     |
| Media/press              | 6     |
| Senior management        | 1     |
| Support staff            | 0     |

#### Egypt: Museums and Galleries

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the looting of the Egyptian Museum, Cairo on 28 January 2011; what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Egypt about protecting the contents of the Egyptian Museum; and if he will make a statement. [38037]

**Alistair Burt:** I was troubled by these reports. Egypt has a unique history and the National Museum is a repository of priceless and irreplaceable antiquities.

We have not raised the protection of the contents of the Egyptian Museum with the Egyptian Government, but understand that the army was asked to take responsibility for the protection of public properties, including museums, on 28 January 2011.

We are gravely concerned by the ongoing political unrest in Egypt and utterly condemn the violence that is taking place in Cairo.

#### Embassies: London Congestion Charge

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received from Transport for London on progress towards recovering outstanding London congestion charge payments from diplomatic missions. [39246]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) receives some information from Transport for London (TfL) about the congestion charge and diplomatic missions. Acting on statistics provided by TfL, in March 2010 the FCO wrote individually to those diplomatic missions and international organisations which do not pay the congestion charge advising them to pay. The FCO has now received updated statistics from TfL and will shortly be writing to those missions which still have outstanding congestion charge debts.



Every June, the FCO publishes a written ministerial statement listing all diplomatic missions in the UK which have outstanding congestion charge debts of £100,000 or more. This list is published on behalf of TfL.

We remain in contact with TfL on the question of payment of the congestion charge by diplomatic missions.

**Gilad Shalit**

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress he has made in efforts to (a) encourage the release of and (b) allow Red Cross access to Corporal Gilad Shalit.

[39343]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend Lord Howell of Guildford's response of 25 January 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA139.

**Hong Kong: Passports**

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many passport applications have been received by the regional passport processing centre in Hong Kong in the last six months; and what the average time between application and issue was.

[38796]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The regional passport processing centre in Hong Kong received 13,058 applications between 1 August 2010 and 31 January 2011. We do not record the average time between application and issue. However, 95% of these applications were processed and dispatched back to the customer within 10 working days of the application's arrival at the passport centre. Our advertised time from receipt of applications to delivery to the customer is four weeks for renewals and six weeks for first time applications.

**Iran: Guided Weapons**

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the report of the UN Panel of Experts to the 1718 Sanctions Committee on co-operation between Iran and North Korea in the development of ballistic missiles.

[38978]

**Alistair Burt:** We share the assessment of the UN Panel of Experts to the 1718 Sanctions Committee who published a report in November 2010 indicating that Iran and the Democratic People Republic of Korea (DPRK) were co-operating in the development of ballistic missiles. The DPRK's network of proliferation activities, including to countries such as Iran, is a threat to regional and international security.

We strongly support the tough sanctions imposed by UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874, which are designed to curb the range of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and conventional arms related proliferation activities undertaken by the DPRK. UN Security Council Resolution 1929 also requires countries to take steps to ensure that shipments of weapons and proliferation sensitive goods en route to Iran are stopped. We continue to work closely with international partners to ensure that these measures are robustly implemented.

**Iran: Sanctions**

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of EU sanctions on Iran since December 2010; and if he will make a statement.

[R]

[38042]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to my response to my hon. Friend the Member for Brighton, Kemptown (Simon Kirby) on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 498W.

**Iran: Sexuality**

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether his Department has made any recent representations to the Iranian government on its approach to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people;

[39199]

(2) what representations he has received on the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Iran; and if he will make a statement.

[39200]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK opposes all discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in all circumstances. We believe human rights are universal and apply equally to all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We are concerned by the harsh punishments for homosexual activity in Iran. My officials expressed concerns about this issue and about the specific cases of two individuals, alleged to have been sentenced to death for homosexual activity, to the Iranian embassy in London on 19 January 2011, after we received reports of the cases.

**Middle East: Peace Negotiations**

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of steps taken by (a) Algeria, (b) Morocco, (c) Tunisia and (d) Lebanon in implementing the requirements to promote trade and co-operation with other countries in the region, including Israel, in their association agreements with the EU.

[39354]

**Alistair Burt:** While we have not held discussions with EU counterparts specifically on using the association agreement to encourage these countries to recognise Israel, regional integration and co-operation are important parts of European Union association agreements and the wider Neighbourhood policy. The External Action Service and European Commission undertake assessments of progress against association agreements. This includes information on regional co-operation.

The latest assessments by country are at:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm)

The EU-Lebanon Action Plan, which implements the association agreement, includes an objective that furthers development of co-operation between the EU and Lebanon in the context of the Middle East Peace Process, which is pursued on the ground and in Brussels.

Regarding Israel specifically, our position is set out in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of December 2010, which noted:

"The EU recalls that peace in the Middle East should be comprehensive and reiterates the importance of negotiations on the Israel-Syria and Israel-Lebanon tracks. Peace should lead to the full integration of Israel in its regional environment, along the lines set out in the Arab Peace Initiative".

#### Pakistan: Overseas Aid

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department plans to provide to the government of Pakistan in order to strengthen institutions to (a) reduce levels of corruption and (b) uphold human rights. [39195]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works closely with partners across Government to support the Government of Pakistan in strengthening democratic institutions and promoting good governance. The Department for International Development has a £665 million four-year development assistance programme, which includes support for economic growth and governance. Funding streams from the interdepartmental Conflict Pool (£901,000 for Pakistan internal projects) and the Bilateral Programme Fund (£100,000) are also used to focus on projects designed to provide assistance to the Government of Pakistan in addressing corruption and upholding human rights. The FCO engages with the Government of Pakistan on the issues of corruption and human rights both bilaterally and with our partners in the European Union.

#### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on recruitment to ambassadorial posts through open competition. [36392]

**Alistair Burt:** Ambassadorial posts in senior management grades are appointed through competition open to all Government Departments. Posts in other grades are open to members of the Diplomatic Service. Recruitment through external competition may be considered in exceptional cases where external candidates can offer essential skills not available within the civil service.

#### Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the treatment of alleged ex-combatants in Sri Lanka by the police and the military. [39084]

**Alistair Burt:** The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister informed our Acting High Commissioner on 1 February 2011 that 4,666 of the original 11,696 former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters remained in detention. He stated that the rest have been released and re-integrated into their communities and all former child fighters have been released. We continue to seek regular updates on the treatment of former fighters from the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.

We regularly raise our concerns about the lack of humanitarian access and the continued lack of clarity over their legal status with the Sri Lankan Government.

We hope that the interim recommendations of the Sri Lankan Government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation

Commission, seeking a speedy resolution of cases relating to detainees and information on their whereabouts, can be acted on promptly.

#### Sudan: Referendums

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Sudanese counterpart on the implementation of the result on the referendum on Southern Sudan. [38990]

**Mr Bellingham:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Sudanese Vice President Taha on 13 January 2011. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary welcomed the constructive statements made by the National Congress Party regarding the likely outcome of the referendum. We continue to urge both parties to resolve the remaining Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues including citizenship rights, borders and Abyei.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands: Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department has contributed to the Turks and Caicos Special Investigation and Prosecution Team since its creation. [38857]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) covered the initial costs of the Turks and Caicos Special Investigation and Prosecution Team (SIPT). These were approximately £660,000 in the financial year ending March 2010.

Since then, the FCO has continued to pay the accommodation costs for the SIPT office in London. From April 2010 to end of January 2011, the cost was approximately £104,000.

We are considering whether we can provide further support.

#### United Nations: Finance

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to maintain oversight of UK financial contributions to the UN for the purposes of ensuring good governance. [39094]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Government closely scrutinise UN activity and expenditure and requests for funding. This is done in a number of ways, including through active participation by the UK in the Fifth Committee (Budget/Administration) of the UN General Assembly.

Budget issues are also examined by the UN Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions. This is made up of independent experts, currently including one expert from the UK. Other bodies play a vital oversight role, particularly the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services and the UN Board of Auditors, on which the UK National Audit Office currently sits.

## United Nations: Recruitment

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to maintain oversight of recruitment of international staff to UN posts for the purposes of ensuring fair and transparent process. [39093]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UK is committed to ensuring recruitment to UN posts is based on the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, as set out in the Charter of the UN, and reiterated by the General Assembly, most recently in December 2010 in Resolution A/RES/65/247. The UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services investigates and reports regularly on compliance with resolutions, regulations, rules and policies, including on recruitment issues.

## Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress on political reform in Zimbabwe. [38985]

**Mr Bellingham:** There has been considerable economic progress in Zimbabwe since the formation of the Inclusive Government in 2008. But there has not yet been political reform on anything like the same scale. It is clear that there is still a long way to go before the country can be considered stable and democratic. The constitutional reform process, which has itself been marred by some apparent intimidation, and the setting up of Media, Electoral and Human Rights commissions are encouraging signs. But a number of key provisions of the Global Political Agreement remain unimplemented. The general conditions necessary for free and fair elections have yet to be established. Moreover, President Mugabe continues to make unilateral appointments to important offices.

There has been a considerable reduction in the severity and frequency of human rights abuses since the formation of the Inclusive Government. However the recent constitutional reform process has shown that State actors still have a capacity for violence and intimidation and we remain concerned about ongoing abuses, particularly recent examples of politically-motivated violence apparently tied to potential elections. We call on the Zimbabwean authorities to resume the downward trend in human rights abuses.

In the absence of a roadmap to credible and properly monitored elections, the Inclusive Government continues to offer the only credible means of transforming Zimbabwe and of delivering basic services to its people. But to succeed, it needs a clear commitment from all parties to work together to implement the reforms set out in the Global Political Agreement.

We will continue to engage with our international partners, including South Africa and the Southern African Development Community, in considering how best to work with reformers in Zimbabwe and the region, to improve prospects of reform and to prepare for credible and properly monitored elections.

## HEALTH

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38950]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The data we hold on the type of role performed by communications staff do not correspond exactly with the descriptions the hon. Member requested. However, information on the disciplines of all of the communications staff in the Department is contained in the following tables. Table 1 provides figures for staff working in the Communications Directorate, table 2 provides figures for staff working elsewhere in the Department.

The source of the data in table 1 and 2 is the Cabinet Office commission 2009-10 to meet the needs of the Treasury's Operational Efficiency programme (OEP) Corporate Functions Benchmarking programme, for 2009-10.

These figures were supplied in April 2010. Figures for the Communications Directorate have been updated as these were readily available and are in table 1. Figures in table 2 are as of April 2010.

Table 3—the Department has nine executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) and one executive agency. We have included data only for the NDPBs and Executive Agency that currently exist.

The Department also grants funds to a wide range of voluntary and charitable organisations to provide services relating to health and healthy living. It is not possible to provide these data without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Central communications staff, accounts for all staff working in the Communications Directorate. Data from February 2011

| Discipline                             | Total |
|----------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Internal communications including:  | 6.0   |
| (a) Change management                  | —     |
| (b) Internal channel management        | —     |
| (c) Employee engagement                | —     |
| 2. Digital/social media                | 7.0   |
| 3. Strategic communications including: | 26.0  |
| (a) Stakeholder engagement             | —     |
| (b) Strategic communication advisors   | —     |
| (c) Customer insight                   | —     |
| 4. Corporate communications including: | 5.0   |
| (a) Brand management                   | —     |
| (b) Reputation management              | —     |
| (c) Corporate publications             | —     |
| 5. Marketing including:                | 30.0  |
| (a) Campaign management                | —     |



Table 1: Central communications staff, accounts for all staff working in the Communications Directorate. Data from February 2011

| Discipline                                  | Total  |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| (b) Sponsorship and partnership marketing   | —      |
| (c) Customer insight                        | —      |
| (d) Research and evaluation                 | —      |
| (e) Publications, including:                | —      |
| I. print procurement                        | —      |
| II. design services                         | —      |
| III. editorial and copywriting              | —      |
| 6. Media/press including:                   | 47.0   |
| (a) Media handling                          | —      |
| (b) Media-focused ministerial events/visits | —      |
| (c) Media planning                          | —      |
| (d) Speechwriting                           | —      |
| (e) Public relations                        | —      |
| (f) Public affairs (arms-length bodies)     | —      |
| 7. Senior management                        | 2.0    |
| 8. Support staff                            | 13.0   |
| Total central communication function staff  | 136.00 |

Table 2: Embedded communications in the Department. Accounts for all staff working in the Department in policy teams. Data from April 2010

| Discipline                            | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Internal communications including: | 3.0   |
| (a) Employee engagement               | —     |
| (b) Change management                 | —     |
| (c) Internal channel management       | —     |
| 2. Digital/social media:              | 6.0   |

Table 2: Embedded communications in the Department. Accounts for all staff working in the Department in policy teams. Data from April 2010

| Discipline                                  | Total |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| 3. Strategic communications including:      | 33.0  |
| (a) Stakeholder engagement                  | —     |
| (b) Strategic communication advisors        | —     |
| (c) Customer insight                        | —     |
| 4. Corporate communications including:      | 0.0   |
| (a) Brand management                        | —     |
| (b) Reputation management                   | —     |
| (c) Corporate publications                  | —     |
| 5. Marketing including:                     | 1.0   |
| (a) Campaign management                     | —     |
| (b) Sponsorship and partnership marketing   | —     |
| (c) Customer insight                        | —     |
| (d) Research and evaluation                 | —     |
| (e) Publications, including:                | —     |
| IV. print procurement                       | —     |
| V. design services                          | —     |
| VI. editorial and copywriting               | —     |
| 6. Media/press including:                   | 0.0   |
| (a) Media handling                          | —     |
| (b) Media-focused ministerial events/visits | —     |
| (c) Media planning                          | —     |
| (d) Speechwriting                           | —     |
| (e) Public relations                        | —     |
| (f) Public affairs (arms-length bodies)     | —     |
| 7. Senior management                        | 1.0   |
| 8. Support staff                            | 2.0   |
| Total embedded communication function staff | 46.0  |

Table 3

| Communications                                                   | Figures (WTE)* as at: | (a) Press officers | (b) Internal Comms officers | (c) External Comms officers | (d) Comms strategy officers |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alcohol Education and Research Council                           | 1 February 2011       | —                  | —                           | —                           | —                           |
| Appointments Commission                                          | 3 February 2011       | 1                  | 1                           | 1                           | 1                           |
| Care Quality Commission                                          | 1 February 2011       | 4                  | 4                           | 16                          | —                           |
| Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence                     | 7 February 2011       | 2                  | 2                           | 2                           | 2                           |
| General Social Care Council                                      | 4 February 2011       | 1                  | —                           | 2                           | 3                           |
| Health Protection Agency                                         | December 2010         | 3                  | 3                           | 3                           | 3                           |
| Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority                     | 31 January 2011       | 1                  | —                           | 3                           | 1                           |
| Human Tissue Authority                                           | 7 February 2011       | 1                  | 1                           | 1                           | 1                           |
| Monitor                                                          | 7 February 2011       | 2                  | 1.5                         | 2.5                         | 1                           |
| Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency <sup>4</sup> | 1 February 2011       | 3                  | 1                           | 0                           | 1                           |

\* Appointments Commission has one post holder who undertakes all Communications activity and it is not possible to determine the split between the roles (a)-(d).

<sup>2</sup> Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence has one post holder who undertakes all Communications activity and it is not possible to determine the split between the roles (a)-(d).

<sup>3</sup> Health Protection Agency has a total of 30 staff who work across all these disciplines. It is not possible to isolate staff into individual categories as they cross all of them.

<sup>4</sup> Executive Agency

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39264]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

### Doctors: Foreign Workers

**Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors in the NHS are employed on tier 1 work permits for highly skilled migrants. [39162]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not available. Unlike those who come into the United Kingdom under Tier 2 of the points based system, Tier 1 migrants do not need a job offer before they arrive in the UK.

The Home Office records the number of entry clearance visas issued out of country. In the first three quarters of the financial year 2010-11, 12,470 visas were issued under Tier 1 of the highly skilled migrant category of the point based system.

### Doctors: Working Hours

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of hospital rotas for doctors identified staffing gaps in the last month for which figures are available; [38278]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that hospital rotas for doctors are appropriately staffed. [38281]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not collected centrally. It is for individual national health service trusts to identify gaps and ensure their service rotas are designed and staffed appropriately.

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on staffing gaps in hospital rotas of the extension of the European Working Time Directive to junior doctors; [38279]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the accuracy of information collected to assess compliance with the European Working Time Directive; and if he will make a statement. [38280]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department does not collect data of the potential effects on staffing gaps in junior doctors' rotas. It is a requirement that local organisations collect and assess whether their data are accurate in measuring compliance with the working time directive.

### General Practitioners

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the responses to his Department's proposals for GP consortia in the Health White Paper. [38722]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government's response to the consultation 'Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps' summarises the responses received to the consultation on the White Paper 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS', and associated consultations, including 'Commissioning for Patients'. A list of organisations which responded to the consultation is available on the Department's website at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_123342.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_123342.pdf)

### Health Services

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has assessed the risk that patients may be refused care that they were previously entitled to following the implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [38743]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The requirement to promote a comprehensive health service free at the point of use, first set out in the NHS Act 1946, is unchanged by the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill.

### Hospitals: Coventry

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will have discussions with the chief executive of university hospital Coventry on its contract with ISS Facility Services; what the date was on which renegotiation of the contract started; what the name was of the person who took the decision to renegotiate the contract; and if he will make a statement; [38947]

(2) if he will assess the effects of the renegotiation of the contract between university hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire and ISS Facility Services on (a) car park charges, (b) catering and (c) cleaning; and if he will make a statement; [38948]

(3) what information NHS hospitals are obliged to place in the public domain in respect of renegotiation of contracts with (a) NHS and (b) non-NHS partners; and if he will make a statement. [38949]

**Mr Simon Burns:** University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW) does not have a contract directly with ISS. This is held between Coventry and Rugby Hospital Company (CRHC) and ISS. CRHC is the private company that is contractually required to market test 'soft' FM services (catering, cleaning, car parking etc) at regular intervals on behalf of the trust under the private finance initiative (PFI) contract, and to manage the tendering process.

During the initial stage of this process in the first half of 2010, CRHC, on behalf of its sub-contractor (ISS), was asked to submit data to the trust, in order for it to carry out a benchmarking exercise. The trust commissioned work from independent consultants which demonstrated that the existing ISS service costs were within market range. Based on this the trust considered renewing the existing service provider. At the same time the trust was offered a cost reduction package, which included significant reductions within the contract of over £1 million per annum and the part-absorption of a number of annual cost pressures, at the supplier's risk, up to 2018. These

factors were considered by the Trust Board on 28 July 2010 and the decision taken to instruct CRHC to extend the ISS contract to 2018 on these terms.

The contract between CRCH and ISS has been continued with the same output specifications and service agreements in terms of the standard and quality of services ISS is required to deliver. So despite the cost reduction programmes, it is not expected patients and staff will experience any changes in these services. Ministers are satisfied that the trust has therefore secured overall value for money from its renegotiation of this contract and do not therefore intend to discuss this issue with the chief executive of the trust.

Where national health service hospitals renegotiate existing contracts, relevant business cases and other supporting information should be publicly available for discussion, subject to the commercial interests of the NHS. Final and approved documents must also be published, for example under a trust's Freedom of Information publication scheme, which is again subject to commercial considerations.

### Influenza: Vaccination

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made in October 2010 of the appropriateness of the proposed launch date for the 2010-11 seasonal influenza advertising campaign. [39316]

**Mr Lansley:** Decisions on seasonal flu related advertising campaigns were taken prior to October 2010. As in previous years, local national health service organisations continued to run targeted communications to people who were eligible for a free flu vaccination.

In response to data on rising rates of flu infection in England, I received and considered advice over the Christmas period on whether to launch the Catch It Kill It Bin It campaign. This campaign is designed to encourage behaviours, such as covering coughs and sneezes and regular hand-washing, that are likely to slow the spread of flu. The campaign was launched on 1 January 2011.

### Medical Equipment: Counterfeit Manufacturing

**David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has received recent reports on the use of counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors in hospitals. [39118]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has received reports on the use of counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors which it is investigating.

MHRA has issued a Medical Device Alert warning interested parties in the national health service to look out for counterfeit sensors and report any such occurrences to the Agency.

### Monitor

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the future regulation of (a) salaries, (b) bonuses and (c) pensions of employees of

(i) Monitor, (ii) the National Health Service Commissioning Board and (iii) commissioning consortia. [38823]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The proposals outlined in the Health and Social Care Bill would require that Monitor and the National Health Service Commissioning Board must obtain the Secretary of State's approval for their policies on remuneration, payment of pensions and other allowances for employees.

The Bill also proposes that each commissioning consortium is to be a corporate body which may appoint employees on such terms and conditions (including remuneration) as it determines. The National Health Service Commissioning Board may publish guidance for consortia on the determination of remuneration for employees. Consortia would also be required to publish prescribed information in relation to the remuneration of their employees.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future salary level of the chairman of Monitor in each of the next four years. [38824]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The remuneration level for the chairman of the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts (Monitor), has been advertised as up to £57,000 for two days a week. No appointment has yet been made.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings (a) he and (b) Ministers in his Department have had with Monitor to discuss his proposals for NHS reform. [38825]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Secretary of State and other Ministers have had the following meetings with Monitor to discuss the proposals for the national health service reforms:

| <i>Date of meeting</i> | <i>Ministers in attendance</i>                                                                                          |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 June 2010           | 1. Secretary of State ✓                                                                                                 |
| 20 July 2010           | 1. Secretary of State<br>2. Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe)<br>3. Minister of State (Mr Simon Burns) |
| 1 September 2010       | 1. Secretary of State<br>2. Minister of State (Mr Simon Burns)                                                          |
| 22 September 2010      | 1. Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe)                                                                   |
| 11 October 2010        | 1. Minister of State (Mr Simon Burns)                                                                                   |
| 12 January 2011        | 1. Secretary of State<br>2. Minister of State (Mr Simon Burns)                                                          |



### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to assign a role to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the provision of advice to pharmaceutical companies. [38725]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) currently offers a scientific advice service to pharmaceutical companies and device manufacturers about products they have in development and we expect this work to continue. NICE charges a fee for its scientific advice.

### NHS Commissioning Board

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to establish the NHS Commissioning Board. [38688]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The NHS Commissioning Board will act in shadow form as a special health authority during 2011-12 and, subject to parliamentary approval, it will be established as a non-departmental public body from April 2012.

### NHS: Finance

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients are to be informed of the costs of the treatments they are offered following the implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [38740]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill published on 19 January does not include provisions relating to informing patients of the costs of treatments offered.

### NHS: Standards

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to revise arrangements for data collection on waiting times for (a) operations and (b) diagnostic tests and for publication of such data. [38724]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There are no plans to revise the data that are collected on referral to treatment waiting times and waits for diagnostics tests. These data will continue to be published on the Department's website at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/index.htm](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/index.htm)

### Prostate Cancer

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of attendances at general practitioner surgeries by men with a diagnosis of prostate cancer in the latest period for which figures are available. [38794]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department has made no estimate of the number of attendees at general practitioner surgeries by men with a diagnosis of cancer, as the data are not centrally collected.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published Clinical Guideline in February 2008 regarding the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer, which includes recommendations for the care and management of men with prostate cancer in primary care.

Health care professionals should ensure that mechanisms are in place to allow men with prostate cancer and their primary care providers to gain access to specialist services throughout the course of their disease.

### WALES

#### Coal: Industry

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the future of the coal industry in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [38708]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) and I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues affecting Wales including the coal industry.

Wales is leading the way by using its natural resources, including clean coal, to help tackle one of the greatest challenges facing the global economy—climate change. New technologies being developed mean there is a real prospect of reducing coal emissions to a level comparable to gas, and there are further benefits to be gained from carbon capture.

This, in addition to our continued support for the plans for an open cast operation at Tower Colliery near Hirwaun and a new deep mine on the Port Talbot Steelworks site, means that coal continues to have a future in Wales.

#### Departmental Information Officers

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) her Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38968]

**Mr David Jones:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 192W, to the hon. Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd (Mr Llwyd).

#### Foreign Investment in UK: Higher Education

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the role of higher education in Wales in attracting inward investment; and if she will make a statement. [38705]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales and I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of topics including the role of higher education in attracting inward investment to Wales.

Higher education plays a major role in attracting investment into Wales. It is vital that Wales offers a skilled and innovative workforce that is able to attract large international companies to locate and invest there.

My right hon. Friend and I remain committed to working with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers to look at ways to encourage more inward investment to Wales in future. My right hon. Friend has also invited the Welsh Assembly Government to be represented on her Business Advisory Group which focuses on ways to boost trade, investment and the economy in Wales.

#### Higher Education

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the future of higher education in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [38707]

**Mr David Jones:** I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues including higher education.

Following the conclusion of the Browne Review in England the Welsh Assembly Government have also recognised the need to raise tuition fees in order to make higher education affordable and sustainable in Wales.

#### Iron and Steel: Industry

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the future of the steel industry in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [38711]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales and I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues affecting Wales including the steel industry.

The steel industry in Wales continues to contribute significantly to the Welsh economy and support Welsh jobs. For example, there are some 7,000 people employed in Wales by Tata and many times that number employed by the wider economic community of contractors, suppliers and other partners. We continue to work with Tata and the Welsh Assembly Government to take forward the company's plans for a deep mine on the Port Talbot site which could create hundreds more much needed jobs.

#### Science: Finance

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on science funding in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [38706]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales and I have regular discussions with the First Minister and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues.

We are committed to supporting the development of Wales's science and innovation base. We welcome, in particular, funding announced last month from the Welsh Assembly Government, which will help support British Petroleum's new £400 million university science campus in Swansea.

The new campus is intended to allow academic researchers to collaborate with companies such as Rolls-Royce so they can commercialise ideas. This is good news for Wales, helping to create thousands of jobs and put more than £3 billion into the regional economy over 10 years. It is a significant boost to the Welsh economy as we begin the return to growth and prosperity.

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Departmental Information Officers

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38953]

**Mr O'Brien:** The latest figures on communications staff were collated as part of a review of the communications networks within the Department for International Development (DFID). This showed that in April 2010 there were 109 full time equivalent (FTE) staff working in communications roles across the Department. This included staff in both the UK and in overseas offices.

As a result of the review this number will fall to 60.2 FTE communications posts across DFID by April 2011, and can be broken down as follows:

- (a) 20.6 press officers
- (b) five internal communications officers
- (c) 0 external communications officers
- (d) 20 strategic communications officers
- (e) 14.6 other positions with a communications remit, including 10.6 digital communications officers

#### Developing Countries: Agriculture

**Chris White:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to help assist in increasing food production in the developing world; and if he will make a statement. [38801]

**Mr O'Brien:** In 2010-11, the Department for International Development (DFID) invested £65 million in agricultural research aimed at increased food production, including £36.7 million through support for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Evidence suggests that for every \$1 invested in this global partnership at least an additional \$9 worth of additional food is produced in developing countries (Raizer 2003).

As the recent Foresight study by the Government Office of Science into Global Food and Farming Futures states:

"food production will have to increase by 70% and 100% just to keep up with demand".

This will be hugely challenging for the global food system. DFID and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will be jointly assessing the recommendations to determine what follow up action to take.

#### Developing Countries: Government Securities

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to take steps to support the development of the bond market for emerging market sovereign issuers. [38764]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have current plans to support the development of the bond market for emerging market sovereign issuers. Before the financial crisis a number of emerging market and low income countries were issuing or exploring bond issuances. The financial crisis reduced the level of interest in these markets.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands: Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has contributed to the Turks and Caicos Special Investigation and Prosecution Team since its creation. [38858]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not contributed directly to the funding of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Special Investigation and Prosecution Team.

DFID has provided short term financial support to TCI, now totalling lending of £27.3 million with another £2.6 million available, while finalising a medium term financial package of support for the Territory.

### PRIME MINISTER

#### Pharmaceutical Industry

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Prime Minister what meetings he has had with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry since his appointment; with whom he met in each case; and what the (a) purpose and (b) location was of each such meeting. [39135]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations. This list was published for the first time in October 2010 and is published on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the new ministerial code.

Andrew Witty, chief executive officer of GlaxoSmithKline, is part of my business advisory group. This has met on 3 November 2010 and 2 February 2011.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 854.

### ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

#### Animal Products: Imports

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 284W,

on animal products: imports, what proportion of her Department's budget for paid-for communication about illegal imports will be spent on (a) print press, (b) television, (c) internet and (d) poster material in each of the next four years. [37975]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 3 February 2011]: The proportion of DEFRA's budget allocated between different communication channels for the next four years of this campaign has not yet been determined.

However, the choice of communication channels will focus on low-cost channels, reflecting the Government-wide reduction in spending on marketing and advertising campaigns.

#### Animal Welfare

**Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects her Department's research project on the extent of use and humaneness of snares to report. [38829]

**Mr Paice:** We expect to publish the report in 2011 but as yet have no firm date.

#### Bees: Pesticides

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees and other non-target species. [37836]

**Mr Paice:** The UK pesticides regulatory body—the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD)—has liaised with other EU regulatory authorities that have imposed restrictions on the use of these pesticides. It also reviews developments on how risks to bee health from the use of pesticides are assessed and monitored. CRD scientists attended the 10th International Symposium of the International Commission for Plant-Bee Relationships (ICPBR) on Hazards of Pesticides to Bees, in October 2008; no new scientific evidence was presented at this meeting, or more recently, to suggest a need for changes to current UK pesticide authorisations.

Ministers have also considered scientific advice, including views of the independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides, on a report issued last year by a number of environmental organisations—the Buglife report "The impact of neonicotinoid insecticides on bumblebees, honeybees and other non-target invertebrates" (2009)2. The report highlighted a need for data on the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides on overwintering of bees in the risk assessment process. This issue had already been identified by regulators and is being addressed through changes to the EU regulatory data requirements. Government scientists have continued to keep up to date with emerging findings and we are supporting further work in this area.

The Government have regularly considered the available evidence in this area and there is no need for an additional review. CRD would act on any substantive evidence should incidents occur in the UK and will continue to monitor research and developments in other EU member states and elsewhere to see if they are relevant to the UK.



### Common Fisheries Policy

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what objectives she has set for the outcome of the Common Fisheries Policy review in 2013. [39388]

**Richard Benyon:** We want reform of the Common Fisheries Policy to provide the right framework to deliver healthy fish stocks, and a sustainable living for fishermen. To achieve this, we need radical reform to simplify and decentralise fisheries management, building in the right incentives for fishermen to operate sustainably and profitably, and cutting the terrible waste of discards.

### Dangerous Dogs

**Mr Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dangerous dogs were seized and destroyed in each of the last three years. [38538]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA does not hold these data centrally. This information is held by each individual police force.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what senior civil service staff moves there have been in her Department since May 2010; and what the (a) name and (b) salary is of each person (i) moving posts within and (ii) leaving her Department. [36520]

**Richard Benyon:** Since May 2010, 10 senior civil servants have moved posts within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and 14 have left.

Individual names and salaries cannot be disclosed, but the following table shows the number of staff involved whose salary (either current or at the point of departure) falls within each bracket of £20,000:

| Salary range      | Left | Moved | Total |
|-------------------|------|-------|-------|
| £50,000-£69,999   | 3    | 6     | 9     |
| £70,000-£89,999   | 7    | 3     | 10    |
| £90,000-£109,999  | 3    | 1     | 4     |
| £110,000-£129,999 | 0    | 0     | 0     |
| £130,000-£149,999 | 1    | 0     | 1     |
| Total             | 14   | 10    | 24    |

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what senior civil service staff have left her Department since May 2010; and what (a) contractual and (b) non-contractual payments were made in each case. [36521]

**Richard Benyon:** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have had 17 senior staff leave the Department since May 2010, 11 of these have left following retirement, (five of which recently left under our early retirement scheme), two have resigned, two

have transferred to other Government Departments and a further two have left as their Fixed Term Appointments have expired.

No contractual or non-contractual payments were made to these leavers on normal retirement, resignation or end of FTA, other than their final salary and any outstanding annual leave that they may have had. However, for those staff that left the Department under our early retirement scheme, they received a lump sum payment as part of the terms of the scheme.

### Environment

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to commission future local environment quality surveys of England; and if she will make a statement. [38609]

**Richard Benyon:** Since 2001, the charity Keep Britain Tidy has carried out the Local Environment Quality Survey of England (LEQSE) on behalf of DEFRA. Preparation for the next survey (2010-11) is under way with results expected to be published in the autumn. The LEQSE provides valuable information on levels of cleanliness in the public realm across England, and I expect surveys along these lines to continue through the spending review period.

### Environment: Public Expenditure

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the development of policies to enhance the local environment and reduce litter; and how many staff of her Department she expects to be allocated to work on such issues in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [38610]

**Richard Benyon:** The Government believe that we need to protect our environment and improve our quality of life and well-being. In particular, the Coalition's programme for government includes the aim of working to reduce litter, a key aspect of local environment quality. DEFRA is working closely with local authorities, business, civil society and others, to develop the "Love Where You Live" behaviour change initiative which it expects to launch publically in the spring.

Policy development on litter and local environment quality forms part of the work of the Atmosphere and Local Environment Programme in DEFRA. Currently, two members of DEFRA staff work on these issues and, according to current plans, an allocation on broadly this scale is likely to continue through the spending review period. In addition, as part of the spending review settlement, the Government have announced continuing grant support to DEFRA's delivery partner on local environment quality issues, Keep Britain Tidy.

### Farming: Salmon

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the provision of assistance to the farmed salmon industry. [39277]

**Richard Benyon:** Grant aid for projects in the fisheries sector is available under the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) programme for 2007-13. Fish farming falls under Axis 2 of the scheme, intended for investments in aquaculture and processing and for marketing of fishery and aquaculture products. The EFF promotes the purchase and use of gear, and methods that reduce the impact of aquaculture production on the environment and improve the quality of produce and conditions in terms of human and animal health.

#### Forestry Commission

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of likely trends in the amount of timber logged from Forestry Commission land under her proposed reforms to the forest estate. [38389]

**Mr Paice:** No significant impact is expected on the amount of timber being produced. Any new owner would be expected to manage their woodland sustainably in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard and would be subject to normal felling controls.

#### Forests

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to announce the results of the consultation on her proposals on the sale of the public forest estate in England before Royal Assent to the Public Bodies Bill; and if she will make a statement. [38971]

**Mr Paice:** The results of the consultation on the future of the public forest estate will be published as soon as the responses have been fully assessed. This is likely to be in the summer. The date of Royal Assent depends upon the progress of the Public Bodies Bill through Parliament.

#### Land: Christchurch

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many acres of land in Christchurch constituency are owned or managed by the Forestry Commission; what proportion of such land is open to public access; and what proportion is classified as (a) heritage and (b) community forest and woodland. [38836]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** The Forestry Commission manages approximately 1,211 hectares of land in the Christchurch constituency, the majority of which is freehold and most of this dedicated for public access on foot under the provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Of the 116 hectares that is in leasehold ownership more than half is subject to a formal access agreement to allow public access. The remainder has access on public rights of way and although there is no formal agreement, public access is tolerated by the freeholder.

The land has been given an indicative categorisation on the map that accompanies the consultation on the future of the public forest estate in England. There are

557 hectares of heritage woodland, 428 hectares of multi-purpose woodland and 226 hectares of small commercial woodland.

#### Litter

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her Department's policy is on the role of the private sector in delivering a national litter campaign; [38700]

(2) what plans she has for a national coordinating body for delivery of a national litter campaign; [38701]

(3) whether her Department plans to hold a public consultation on the future of Keep Britain Tidy. [38702]

**Richard Benyon:** "Love Where You Live" is a new behaviour change initiative on litter announced at the National Litter convention in December 2010. Its aim is to work towards a substantially cleaner England by 2020 through encouraging partnerships between business, local authorities and other land managers, communities and civil society. Businesses are expected to play a key role in the development and use of the single anti-littering message, as well as contributing to behaviour change campaigns.

DEFRA's delivery partner on local environment quality and litter is the charity Keep Britain Tidy who will receive grant-in-aid from Government of £4 million in 2011-12. They will have a central role in co-ordinating work on "Love Where You Live".

Keep Britain Tidy is a charity independent of Government and was established following a campaign in the 1950s by the National Federation Of Women's Institutes. There are no plans for a public consultation on the future of Keep Britain Tidy.

#### Shellfish

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made in reducing the incidence of crayfish plague. [38065]

**Mr Paice:** Crayfish plague is not a notifiable disease in England and Wales and is therefore not subject to any formal controls. However, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) does investigate all reported mortalities of crayfish. It also provides advice to other agencies and stakeholders on the most effective ways to contain the disease in the case of a confirmed outbreak. It is believed that most populations of signal crayfish in Great Britain are likely to carry the pathogen causing this disease, and so efforts to prevent the spread of the disease have concentrated on preventing the spread of the carrier species.

Outbreaks of crayfish plague have been rare in recent years, but to reduce the risk, several measures have been put in place by the Environment Agency (EA). For example, fish movements are licensed through Section 30 consents: through this licensing procedure, the EA is careful to ensure that fish from waters that contain signal crayfish are not moved to those where native crayfish occur. There is an agreed protocol with Natural England to protect protected wildlife sites containing native crayfish.

### Squirrels

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the size of the red squirrel population for each of the last five years. [39113]

**Richard Benyon:** There is no reliable estimate of the red squirrel population in the UK. It is difficult to obtain an accurate figure as the number of squirrels per hectare varies considerably, due to environmental factors such as food supply, weather conditions and breeding success.

### Sustainable Development Commission

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the carrying out of the capacity building activities of the Sustainable Development Commission following its abolition. [38169]

**Mr Paice:** In November 2010 the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs wrote to the Environmental Audit Committee and Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) explaining that she will transfer some elements of the Commission's capability building expertise back into DEFRA and officials are in the process of agreeing the details of this with the SDC. The Government will announce their wider plans for mainstreaming sustainable development in the near future.

### Wildlife: Crime

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her

Department has any plans to introduce legislative proposals on wildlife crime. [39123]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA is currently reviewing the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997, in light of a review of European Regulations in this area as well as developments in domestic enforcement trends and techniques since the regulations were last amended.

A decision has yet to be made whether to pursue an order under section 45 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to make possession of pesticides containing certain ingredients an offence.

We have no other current plans to introduce further legislation.

### ATTORNEY-GENERAL

#### Departmental Information Officers

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Attorney-General how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38967]

**The Solicitor-General:** The information requested is given in the following table, correct, as of 3 February 2011.

| Department                                | Press officers    | Internal communications officers | External communications officers | Communications strategy officers | Other communications officers | Total |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Attorney General's Office                 |                   |                                  | 3                                |                                  | 0                             | 3     |
| Crown Prosecution Service                 | <sup>2</sup> 6    | <sup>2</sup> 5.5                 | 2.5                              | <sup>1</sup> 1                   | 0                             | 34    |
|                                           | <sup>3</sup> 9.25 | <sup>3</sup> 9.75                |                                  |                                  |                               |       |
| Serious Fraud Office                      | 2                 | 1                                | 1                                | 0                                | 0                             | 4     |
| Treasury Solicitors Department            | <sup>4</sup>      | 3                                |                                  | 0                                | 0.25                          | 3.25  |
| HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate |                   | 1                                |                                  | 0                                | 1                             | 2     |
| National Fraud Authority                  | 1                 | 0                                | 2                                | <sup>2</sup> 2                   | 1                             | 6     |

<sup>1</sup> Includes Heads of Communication for the CPS and NFA

<sup>2</sup> HQ

<sup>3</sup> Regional

<sup>4</sup> Covered by AGO press office

Note:

All posts are given as full-time equivalents. This table does not include public inquiry, correspondence or FOI teams.

### TREASURY

#### Financial Institutions: Incentives

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the names and company affiliations of employees of banks and financial institutions wholly or

partially owned by the Government who have received bonuses of £1 million or more in 2010. [36442]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have taken robust action to tackle unacceptable bonuses. The Financial Services Authority has revised the Remuneration Code and new rules came into force on 1 January 2011, requiring



bonuses throughout the banking industry to be deferred and linked to performance and imposing a strict limit on the amount of cash payable upfront.

In addition, the FSA has also introduced a remuneration disclosure regime requiring banks to issue a report containing qualitative information on pay policies and detailed aggregate quantitative information on the remuneration paid to significant risk takers. The new rules came into force on 1 January 2011 and the banks will have to issue a report at least annually, starting in 2011 in respect of the 2010 financial year.

The financial institutions in which the Government have a stake will be required to disclose information as required under the revised FSA Remuneration Code.

#### Bank of England: Public Appointments

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on limiting the tenure of future governors of the Bank of England to a single term. [38686]

**Mr Hoban:** Under the Banking Act 2009, appointments as a Governor or Deputy Governor are for a period of five years and a person may not be appointed as Governor or Deputy Governor more than twice. At present, there are no plans to amend this arrangement.

#### Banks: Iceland

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to secure the return of local authority funds frozen in Icelandic bank accounts. [39383]

**Mr Hoban:** The local authorities are creditors in the administrations of the failed Icelandic Banks. The timing and quantum of recoveries will be determined by the administrators.

Contact details for the administrators in the various resolutions are available on the HM Treasury website:

[http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin\\_stability\\_icelandic\\_resolution.htm](http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_stability_icelandic_resolution.htm)

#### Child Benefit

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households that will cease to be eligible for child benefit as a result of the change in the higher rate income tax threshold; and if he will make a statement. [39319]

**Mr Gauke:** The change to child benefit announced at the spending review does not change the eligibility criteria for child benefit payments. Where a person is currently entitled to receive child benefit they will continue to be entitled to receive payments regardless of whether they or their partner is a higher rate taxpayer. In these circumstances, it is the responsibility of the higher rate taxpayer to notify HMRC that their household is in receipt of child benefit, which will then be recovered through the tax system.

It is estimated that around 1.5 million households will be affected by the proposed change to child benefit.

#### Child Care Tax Credit

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of savings which will accrue to the Exchequer as a result of reducing the rate of childcare support from 80% to 70%. [38670]

**Mr Gauke:** The following table shows the information requested.

|         | Saving (£ million) |
|---------|--------------------|
| 2011-12 | 370                |
| 2012-13 | 430                |
| 2013-14 | 465                |
| 2014-15 | 500                |

This information can be found in the "Spending Review 2010 Policy Costings" document on the Treasury website:

[http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010\\_policycostings.pdf](http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf)

#### Credit Unions

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to promote credit unions in the last 13 years; and what plans he has for further such steps in the next five years. [37504]

**Mr Hoban:** In line with the coalition's aim to "bring forward detailed proposals to foster diversity, promote mutuals and create a more competitive banking industry" the Government are working to reduce barriers to efficiency and growth for credit unions.

The Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order will enable credit unions to broaden their membership and offer interest on deposits, for example. This will be re-laid in Parliament before Easter.

The Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act 2010 will improve the corporate governance of all Industrial and Provident Societies, including Credit Unions, by applying the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 and other aspects of company law. These sections will be commenced over the coming months.

Government have recently consulted on an electronic communications in the mutual sector, which will help make the mutuals sector, including credit unions, more efficient. The order will be laid before Easter.

The Government are also planning to bring Northern Ireland credit unions under FSA regulation. This will provide members of these credit unions with access to the Financial Ombudsman Service and Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

The Treasury's forward plan can be found at:

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about\\_business\\_plan.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_business_plan.htm)

#### Debts: Advisory Services

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to ensure that residents of Redditch constituency continue to receive independent advice on debt management following the ending of the Financial Inclusion Fund; [38653]

(2) if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of debt advice services in Redditch constituency. [38654]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the FIF, including the face-to-face debt advice service.

The Government remain committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

#### Economic Situation

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the reasons for the trend in the level of gross domestic product in the fourth quarter of 2010. [38591]

**Justine Greening:** In preparing its preliminary estimate for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) the ONS made it very clear that the fall in GDP was driven by the extreme weather in December, and estimates that without this disruption GDP would have been flat in the fourth quarter.

Returning the UK to sustainable economic growth is the Government's overriding priority. The OBR and other external bodies forecast a sustained economic recovery in the UK through 2011 and beyond.

#### EU Grants and Loans

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the consolidated statement on the use of EU funds in the UK for 2008-09, what steps he is taking to reduce the level of EU payment disallowances. [38904]

**Justine Greening:** Significant improvements have been made in the administration of the Single Payment scheme within DEFRA which accounted for a significant element of disallowances and we are committed to further improvements to the governance, financial controls and IT systems used in its operation. In addition, we will continue to pursue simplification of the complex EU rules that lead to some errors being made, and have also developed clearer and more comprehensive guidance for Departments on accounting for EU funding.

The Statement and accompanying audit report strengthen parliamentary scrutiny of the UK's use of EU funds. It helps us detect weaknesses in the UK's management of these funds so that these can be more effectively and rapidly tackled, improving management of EU funds across the board.

#### Financial Inclusion Fund

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the implications for debt advice services in Redditch of the ending of the Financial Inclusion Fund. [37611]

**Mr Hoban:** The Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) has always been due to close in March 2011. The Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the FIF. In the meantime, the Government have worked with the delivery agencies

to understand the potential scale of any redundancies and have taken steps to ensure that any redundancy costs can be met from project funds rather than affecting the viability of those organisations.

#### Financial Services Authority

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what mechanisms are in place to assess the effectiveness of the postholder of (a) chief executive officer, (b) managing director of wholesale and institutional markets, (c) managing director of the retail markets business unit and (d) managing director of supervision at the Financial Services Authority; [38338]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to (a) assess and (b) review the qualifications and skills required for the position of (i) chief executive officer, (ii) managing director of wholesale and institutional markets, (iii) managing director of the retail markets business unit and (iv) managing director of supervision at the Financial Services Authority; [38339]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to assess how the postholder of (a) chief executive officer and (b) managing director of supervision at the Financial Services Authority fulfil their responsibilities. [38340]

**Mr Hoban [holding answer 4 February 2011]:** The Financial Services Authority (FSA) currently has one managing director each for supervision, for risk and for enforcement and financial crime.

The appointment of executive directors is a matter reserved to the board of the FSA. The standard contracts are continuous contracts of employment which contain provision for 12 months prior notice of termination on either side. The appointment of individuals to the board of the FSA is a matter for the Treasury.

At selection stage for CEO and managing director roles there is a rigorous appointment process using a panel drawn from senior external assessors, FSA non executive directors, in addition to either the chairman or CEO as appropriate.

Performance assessments of the managing directors are carried out by the chief executive officer and the performance assessment of the CEO is carried out by the chairman. Performance is judged against three key sets of criteria—personal objectives, leadership objectives and achievement of FSA statutory objectives.

#### Financial Services: Taxation

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's assessment is of (a) the practical implications of and (b) the annual level of revenue which would be generated by implementing a tax on financial transactions. [39183]

**Mr Hoban:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1254W.

#### Intergenerational Equity

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to take steps to ensure that intergenerational equity is included in the Green Book. [38771]

**Mr Gauke:** The issue of intergenerational equity is already addressed through supplementary guidance to the Green Book. The guidance, "Intergeneration Wealth Transfers and Social Discounting", is available online:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/4\(5\).pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/4(5).pdf)

The guidance advises that, in cases which involve the very long term (at least fifty years), and which involve substantial and irreversible wealth transfers between generations, a sensitivity calculation should be carried out on the discount rate.

The sensitivity calculation should exclude the 'pure time preference' component of the discount rate. This reflects society's preference for consuming the benefits of policies sooner rather than later so, in some part, reflects impatience. It is not ethically defensible for the pure time preference, or impatience, of the current generation to lead to decisions which do not take full account of the welfare of future generations.

The other components of the discount rate reflect such factors as the expected growth in consumption (the fact that, if people are expected to be better off in the future than they are now, an extra unit of consumption is generally taken to be worth less), which should continue to be allowed for in long term policy assessments.

#### National Income

**Mr Robinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent forecast is for gross domestic product growth in 2011. [39023]

**Justine Greening:** The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR published its latest economic forecast on 29 November 2010, which can be found online at:

<http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk>

This includes the OBR's forecast for gross domestic product growth in 2011, of 2.1%.

The Chancellor has asked the OBR to publish a new economic forecast alongside the Budget on 23 March 2011.

#### Public Expenditure

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the figures underlying the graph on page 21 of the June 2010 Budget showing estimates of the output gap based on alternative trend growth assumptions. [39103]

**Justine Greening:** The figures underlying the graph on page 21 of the June 2010 Budget, showing estimates of the output gap based on alternative trend growth assumptions, have now been placed in the Library.

#### Public Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the size of the UK budget deficit. [38921]

**Justine Greening:** The latest outturn figure for the Public Sector Net Borrowing (PSNB) is 11.1% of GDP, or £156.5 billion in 2009-10.

Outturn figures for PSNB can be found in the public finances databank on the Treasury website:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf\\_statistics.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm)

In its 'Economic and Fiscal forecast', published on 29 November, the independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecast Public Sector Net Borrowing to 2015-16. This is available at:

[http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ\\_fiscal\\_outlook\\_291110.pdf](http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf)

#### Public Sector: Redundancy

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 316W, on public sector: redundancies, if he will take steps to ensure that public sector workers aged over 50 years are not disproportionately adversely affected by public sector redundancies during the comprehensive spending review period. [39092]

**Danny Alexander:** It will be for individual employers to determine the exact workforce implications of their settlements.

The Government will support employers to do everything they can to mitigate the impact of public sector job losses by protecting jobs through pay and pensions reform, ensuring that staff in different public sector workforces and each region will have visibility of suitable vacancies, encouraging local employers to explore voluntary deals with staff on pay restraint or reduced hours in order to save jobs, and actively monitoring potential workforce reductions, enabling decisions to be taken in time to mitigate localised impacts.

#### VAT: Gravestones

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much value added tax was raised on grave headstones in the last 12 months; [33782]

(2) if he will consider exempting value added tax on headstones for the graves of children who died when aged under 16 years; and if he will estimate the consequent loss of revenue to the Exchequer. [33783]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs does not hold data relating to VAT collected on specific goods or services such as grave headstones.

The services provided by an undertaker in connection with a burial or cremation are exempt from VAT. However, long-standing agreements with our EU partners, signed by successive governments, mean that we cannot extend the scope of this exemption to include headstones and similar commemorative items.

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

##### Fuel Prices

**8. Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effect on economic growth in Northern Ireland of recent increases in fuel prices. [38261]



**Mr Paterson:** The sterling oil price has risen 28% over the past year. The Government consider a range of factors when making their assessment of economic activity and growth in the UK. The Office for Budget Responsibility's November forecast shows that the Government's plans will deliver sustainable growth for each of the next five years.

#### Capital Investment

10. **Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he plans to take to ensure that commitments to capital investment in Northern Ireland made as part of the St Andrews agreement are delivered. [38263]

**Mr Swire:** Notwithstanding the dreadful financial situation, the Government stand by the commitment they gave to support the £18 billion capital investment strategy in Northern Ireland.

Over £9 billion has already been invested through a number of funding streams and we believe Northern Ireland is on target to meet the 2017-18 deadline.

#### Economic Affairs

11. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the state of the Northern Ireland economy. [38264]

**Mr Paterson:** The economy in Northern Ireland is dominated by too large a public sector. Around 77% of GDP, according to one survey, is dependent on public expenditure. We are working with Northern Ireland Ministers to rebalance the economy.

#### Inward Investment

12. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had on inward investment into Northern Ireland. [38266]

**Mr Paterson:** This is largely a devolved matter but I work closely with Northern Ireland Ministers to explore ways to attract inward investment to Northern Ireland. Last week at Hillsborough, the Minister for Trade and Investment, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, my noble Friend Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, and I met with the Enterprise Minister (Arlene Foster) and a number of key business representatives to discuss investment and growth.

#### Human Trafficking

13. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister of Northern Ireland on the incidence of cross-border human trafficking. [38267]

**Mr Swire:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Northern Ireland Justice Minister have been working in close co-operation with the authorities in the Republic of Ireland to tackle this despicable activity. I stand ready to offer what assistance I can to ensure that we continue to tackle human trafficking.

#### Corporation Tax

**Gemma Doyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the Government's policy is on reductions to the rate of corporation tax in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [38265]

**Mr Paterson:** The Government aim to publish a consultation document setting out potential options for rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy, including a discussion of the potential costs and benefits of a reduction in the rate of corporation tax, as soon as possible. Treasury and Northern Ireland Office Ministers are in discussions with Northern Ireland Executive Ministers on the content of the paper.

#### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38961]

**Mr Paterson:** My Department employs a Director of Communications and has in place a secondment arrangement for two Information Officers from the Northern Ireland Civil Service. The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, which is sponsored by my Department, employs four full-time staff in communication roles including media engagement, publications and web management. No communications staff are employed by the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland or the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland.

### BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

#### Apprentices: Greater London

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many (a) apprenticeship and (b) advanced apprenticeship starts there were in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (ii) the London borough of Bexley and (iii) Greater London in each of the last five years; [38666]

(2) what proportion of (a) apprenticeship and (b) advanced apprenticeship starts in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (ii) the London borough of Bexley and (iii) Greater London in each of the last five years were (A) men and (B) women; [38669]

(3) how many (a) apprenticeship and (b) advanced apprenticeship starts there were in each sector in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (ii) the London borough of Bexley and (iii) Greater London in each of the last five years. [38668]

**Mr Hayes:** The information is as follows:

Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by level and gender for Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency, Bexley local authority and

Greater London region in academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest years for which full year data are available.

Table 2 shows apprenticeship starts by level and sector subject area for Bexleyheath and Crayford

parliamentary constituency and Bexley local authority in academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest years for which full year data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by level, geography and gender, 2005/06 to 2009/10

| Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency  |        |         |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |
|----------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|
|                                        |        | 2005/06 |     | 2006/07 |     | 2007/08 |     | 2008/09 |     | 2009/10 |     |
|                                        |        | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   |
| Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | Female | 90      | 54  | 90      | 53  | 120     | 49  | 100     | 54  | 150     | 56  |
|                                        | Male   | 80      | 46  | 80      | 47  | 120     | 51  | 90      | 46  | 120     | 44  |
|                                        | Total  | 170     | 100 | 170     | 100 | 240     | 100 | 190     | 100 | 260     | 100 |
| Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | Female | 20      | 31  | 40      | 39  | 30      | 35  | 40      | 38  | 50      | 42  |
|                                        | Male   | 50      | 69  | 60      | 61  | 60      | 65  | 70      | 62  | 70      | 58  |
|                                        | Total  | 70      | 100 | 90      | 100 | 100     | 100 | 110     | 100 | 120     | 100 |
| Higher Level Apprenticeship (Level 4+) | Female | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   |
|                                        | Male   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   |
|                                        | Total  | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   |
| Bexleyheath and Crayford total         |        | 240     |     | 260     |     | 340     |     | 310     |     | 380     |     |

| Bexley local authority                 |        |         |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |
|----------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|
|                                        |        | 2005/06 |     | 2006/07 |     | 2007/08 |     | 2008/09 |     | 2009/10 |     |
|                                        |        | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   |
| Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | Female | 230     | 55  | 240     | 54  | 260     | 47  | 250     | 50  | 350     | 52  |
|                                        | Male   | 190     | 45  | 200     | 46  | 300     | 53  | 250     | 50  | 310     | 48  |
|                                        | Total  | 420     | 100 | 440     | 100 | 560     | 100 | 490     | 100 | 660     | 100 |
| Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | Female | 70      | 34  | 80      | 34  | 100     | 38  | 120     | 45  | 140     | 43  |
|                                        | Male   | 140     | 66  | 150     | 66  | 170     | 62  | 140     | 55  | 180     | 57  |
|                                        | Total  | 210     | 100 | 240     | 100 | 270     | 100 | 260     | 100 | 320     | 100 |
| Higher Level Apprenticeship (Level 4+) | Female | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   |
|                                        | Male   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   |
|                                        | Total  | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   |
| Bexley total                           |        | 620     |     | 670     |     | 830     |     | 760     |     | 980     |     |

| Greater London region    |        |         |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|
|                          |        | 2005/06 |     | 2006/07 |     | 2007/08 |     | 2008/09 |     | 2009/10 |     |
|                          |        | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   |
| Apprenticeship (Level 2) | Female | 4,120   | 53  | 4,020   | 52  | 5,040   | 51  | 6,190   | 54  | 7,340   | 52  |
|                          | Male   | 3,650   | 47  | 3,690   | 48  | 4,890   | 49  | 5,320   | 46  | 6,710   | 48  |
|                          | Total  | 7,770   | 100 | 7,710   | 100 | 9,930   | 100 | 11,510  | 100 | 14,050  | 100 |

|                                        |        | Greater London region |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |         |     |
|----------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|
|                                        |        | 2005/06               |     | 2006/07 |     | 2007/08 |     | 2008/09 |     | 2009/10 |     |
|                                        |        | No.                   | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   | No.     | %   |
| Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | Female | 1,400                 | 43  | 1,460   | 43  | 2,240   | 49  | 3,060   | 54  | 3,090   | 49  |
|                                        | Male   | 1,850                 | 57  | 1,920   | 57  | 2,340   | 51  | 2,600   | 46  | 3,160   | 51  |
|                                        | Total  | 3,250                 | 100 | 3,380   | 100 | 4,580   | 100 | 5,660   | 100 | 6,250   | 100 |
| Higher Level Apprenticeship (Level 4+) | Female | —                     | —   | —       | —   | 10      | —   | 10      | —   | 20      | 46  |
|                                        | Male   | —                     | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | —       | —   | 30      | 54  |
|                                        | Total  | —                     | —   | —       | —   | 10      | —   | 10      | —   | 50      | 100 |
| Greater London region total            |        | 11,010                |     | 11,090  |     | 14,520  |     | 17,180  |     | 20,350  |     |

Table 2: Apprenticeship programme starts by level, geography and sector subject area, 2005/06 to 2009/10

|                                                  |                                        | Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency |         |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                  |                                        | 2005/06                               | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care        | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | —                                     | —       | 10      | —       | —       |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                                       |         |         |         |         |
| Arts, Media and Publishing                       | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                                       |         |         |         |         |
| Business, Administration and Law                 | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 40                                    | 50      | 60      | 50      | 70      |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 10                                    | 20      | 20      | 20      | 30      |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                                       |         |         |         |         |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 40                                    | 40      | 60      | 40      | 30      |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 10                                    | 10      | 20      | 30      | 30      |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                                       |         |         |         |         |
| Education and Training                           | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                                     | —       | —       | 10      | —       |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                                       |         |         |         |         |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies       | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                                    | 20      | 30      | 20      | 10      |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 20                                    | —       | 30      | 20      | 20      |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                                       |         |         |         |         |
| Health, Public Services and Care                 | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                                    | 10      | 20      | 20      | 20      |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                                     | 10      | 10      | 10      | 20      |



Table 2: Apprenticeship programme starts by level, geography and sector subject area, 2005/06 to 2009/10

|                                                    |                                        | <i>Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency</i> |            |            |            |            |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                                                    |                                        | 2005/06                                      | 2006/07    | 2007/08    | 2008/09    | 2009/10    |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| Information and Communication Technology           | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                                           | —          | —          | —          | 10         |
|                                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | 10         |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism                        | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                                           | 10         | 10         | 10         | 20         |
|                                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 10                                           | —          | 10         | 10         | 10         |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise                   | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 50                                           | 40         | 60         | 50         | 90         |
|                                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 10                                           | 20         | 10         | 20         | 10         |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| Unknown                                            | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
|                                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                                            | —          | 10         | —          | —          |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| <b>Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency total</b> |                                        | <b>240</b>                                   | <b>260</b> | <b>340</b> | <b>310</b> | <b>380</b> |
|                                                    |                                        | <i>Bexley local authority</i>                |            |            |            |            |
|                                                    |                                        | 2005/06                                      | 2006/07    | 2007/08    | 2008/09    | 2009/10    |
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care          | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                                           | 10         | 10         | 10         | 10         |
|                                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| Arts, Media and Publishing                         | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
|                                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| Business, Administration and Law                   | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 110                                          | 110        | 140        | 120        | 170        |
|                                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 30                                           | 30         | 60         | 60         | 70         |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment   | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 90                                           | 90         | 130        | 110        | 90         |
|                                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 30                                           | 30         | 40         | 60         | 80         |
|                                                    | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |
| Education and Training                             | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | —                                            | —          | —          | —          | —          |

|                                            |                                        | <i>Bexley local authority</i> |                |                |                |                |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                            |                                        | <i>2005/06</i>                | <i>2006/07</i> | <i>2007/08</i> | <i>2008/09</i> | <i>2009/10</i> |
|                                            | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                             | —              | —              | 10             | —              |
|                                            | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                            | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 40                            | 50             | 70             | 60             | 40             |
|                                            | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 60                            | 100            | 80             | 40             | 40             |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                            | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 30                            | 30             | 30             | 40             | 60             |
|                                            | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 20                            | 20             | 30             | 30             | 50             |
|                                            | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
| Health, Public Services and Care           | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 20                            | —              | 10             | 10             | 10             |
|                                            | Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | 10                            | 10             | 10             | —              | 20             |
|                                            | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                            | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                            | 20             | 30             | 30             | 60             |
| Information and Communication Technology   | Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | 20                            | 10             | 30             | 20             | 20             |
|                                            | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                            | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 110                           | 110            | 130            | 120            | 220            |
|                                            | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 20                            | 40             | 20             | 40             | 40             |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism                | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                            | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                            | —              | 10             | —              | —              |
|                                            | Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | 20                            | 10             | 10             | —              | —              |
|                                            | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise           | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                            | —              | 10             | —              | —              |
|                                            | Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | 20                            | 10             | 10             | —              | —              |
|                                            | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                            | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                            | —              | 10             | —              | —              |
| Unknown                                    | Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | 20                            | 10             | 10             | —              | —              |
|                                            | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                             | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                            | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                            | —              | 10             | —              | —              |
|                                            | Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)      | 20                            | 10             | 10             | —              | —              |
| Bexley local authority total               |                                        | 620                           | 670            | 830            | 760            | 980            |

|                                           |                                        | <i>Greater London region</i> |                |                |                |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                           |                                        | <i>2005/06</i>               | <i>2006/07</i> | <i>2007/08</i> | <i>2008/09</i> | <i>2009/10</i> |
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 210                          | 200            | 250            | 280            | 380            |
|                                           | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 40                           | 30             | 70             | 60             | 80             |
|                                           | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                            | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                           | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 10                           | —              | —              | —              | —              |
| Arts, Media and Publishing                | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 20                           | —              | —              | 50             | 100            |
|                                           | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                            | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                           | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 1,880                        | 1,790          | 2,980          | 3,800          | 4,400          |
|                                           | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                            | —              | —              | —              | —              |
| Business, Administration and Law          | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                            | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                           | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 1,880                        | 1,790          | 2,980          | 3,800          | 4,400          |
|                                           | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                            | —              | —              | —              | —              |
|                                           | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                            | —              | —              | —              | —              |

|                                                  |                                        | Greater London region |         |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                  |                                        | 2005/06               | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 510                   | 520     | 920     | 1,470   | 1,480   |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | —       | —       | 40      |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 1,130                 | 1,100   | 1,340   | 1,110   | 990     |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 430                   | 390     | 400     | 730     | 790     |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |
| Education and Training                           | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | —                     | —       | —       | 30      | 50      |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | —                     | —       | —       | 180     | 70      |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies       | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 660                   | 770     | 1,070   | 1,110   | 1,080   |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 830                   | 980     | 1,050   | 600     | 530     |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |
| Health, Public Services and Care                 | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 1,050                 | 1,130   | 950     | 1,240   | 1,880   |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 640                   | 690     | 1,100   | 1,190   | 1,500   |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |
| Information and Communication Technology         | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 300                   | 290     | 360     | 610     | 550     |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 140                   | 110     | 220     | 350     | 760     |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | 10      | 10      | 10      |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism                      | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 300                   | 270     | 430     | 820     | 1,150   |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 150                   | 170     | 320     | 550     | 560     |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise                 | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 2,050                 | 2,030   | 2,300   | 2,510   | 3,560   |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 240                   | 370     | 420     | 490     | 400     |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |
| Unknown                                          | Apprenticeship (Level 2)               | 180                   | 130     | 240     | —       | —       |
|                                                  | Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)      | 250                   | 120     | 80      | —       | —       |
|                                                  | Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4) | —                     | —       | —       | —       | —       |
|                                                  |                                        |                       |         |         |         |         |



|                             | Greater London region |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                             | 2005/06               | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
| Greater London region total | 11,010                | 11,090  | 14,520  | 17,180  | 20,350  |

'—' indicates a base value of less than five (or related percentage).

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner. Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current)

**Source:**

Individualised Learner Record

### Apprentices: Pay

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average wage of an apprentice is in each region. [38667]

**Mr Hayes:** The most recent survey of apprentices' pay in England was undertaken in 2007, and estimated that the average net pay per week for an apprentice was £170. The report does not provide estimates of average pay by region.

The full report—'Apprenticeship Pay: 2007 Survey of Earnings by Sector'—can be accessed at:

[http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedD/publications/D/DIUS\\_RR\\_08\\_05](http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedD/publications/D/DIUS_RR_08_05)

The Department plans to undertake a UK-wide survey of apprenticeship pay this year.

The coalition Government recently strengthened the pay arrangements for apprentices by bringing them within the National Minimum Wage (NMW) framework and ending the exemption from the minimum wage for apprentices. A new minimum pay rate of £2.50 per hour came in from 1 October 2010 and applies to apprentices aged under 19, and those aged 19 and over in the first year of their apprenticeship. Apprentices aged 19 and over who have completed a year on their apprenticeship continue to remain eligible for the full NMW rate appropriate to their age.

BP

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of BP on company law and company reporting. [38661]

**Mr Davey:** In the past two months, there has been no meeting with BP alone. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I had a meeting with business representatives, which included BP, to discuss corporate governance issues. In addition BP were represented at one of the meetings that BIS officials had with business representatives about company reporting issues.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public

body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38965]

**Mr Davey:** The Department currently employs in its central communications function:

- (a) 26 press officers;
- (b) 8.3 internal communications officers;
- (c) 39 external communications officers;
- (d) one communications strategy officer;
- (e) five other positions with a communications remit—four speechwriters and a Director of Communications.

There are also 24 officers with a significant communications remit embedded in policy teams across the Department.

Data on present staffing levels in each of the Department's NDPB's cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

#### Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 February 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department or the most recent date for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills at the current time has:

- a. Three Press Officers
- b. One Internal Communications Officer
- c. Two External Communications Officers
- d. None
- e. One Communications Team Assistant; 1 Head of Communications, and One Director of Strategy, Planning and Communications.

#### Letter from Peter Mason, dated 8 February 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 02/02/2011 [reference 2010/3753] asking how many press officers, internal communications officers, external communications officers, communications strategy officers and other positions with a communications remit were employed on the most recent date for which figures are available.

The NMO defines communications in this Agency to cover the following disciplines:

- Internal communications
- Digital/social media
- Strategic communications

## Corporate communications

## Marketing

## Media and Press

Currently we employ two members of staff (2 FTE) whose roles cover all the above categories and one member of staff whose role is embedded in an operational delivery team and whose duties (equivalent to 0.3 FTE) include some of the above, more specifically dealing with the media and press, strategic communications and production of physical and electronic information.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 3 February 2011:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 2 February 2011, UIN 38965 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has a team of four people who act as both press officers and internal communications officers. As a customer facing organisation a large proportion of Companies House staff has a role in communications. For example, as of today's date we have a contact centre of approximately a hundred people who communicate with external customers on all aspects of our work. We also have teams who, as part of their overall work, provide customer support on specialist subjects such as search facilities, e-filing, liquidation, mortgage etc.

*Letter from Skills Funding Agency, dated 9 February 2011:*

Thank you for your named day question asking the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in positions with a communications remit are currently employed by the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency).

In the Agency there are:

- a) 4 press officers
- b) 7 internal communications officers
- c) none
- d) none
- e) 32 (including 4 from UK Skills).

In the National Apprenticeship Service there are:

- a) none
- b) none
- c) none
- d) none
- e) 17

*Letter from John Alty, dated 9 February 2011:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 02/02/2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

IPO, an executive agency of BIS has the following communications staff: -

- (a) Press officers - 0 (however IPO currently funds a press officer based in BIS)
- (b) Internal communications officers - 3 (2.5 FTE)
- (c) External communications officers - 1
- (d) Communications strategy officers - 0
- (e) Other communications positions (marketing communications)

- 2

## Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39258]

**Mr Davey:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

## Export Credit Guarantees: Egypt

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what projects in Egypt supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) in the last 30 years is debt owed to the ECGD; and how much is owed on each such project. [38816]

**Mr Davey:** There are outstanding debts owed by Egypt of £98.52 million, which are the subject of two rescheduling agreements dated 1987 and 1991, that relate to some 400 export contracts entered into before 31 October 1986. Details of the goods or services supplied under the individual contracts are no longer held nor the specific amount of outstanding debt under each contract.

ECGD also has a contingent exposure of £66.8 million relating to performing export contracts, mainly relating to the supply of Airbus aircraft.

## Higher Education: Females

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many women in (a) Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency, (b) the North East and (c) England (i) applied and (ii) were accepted on to science, technology, engineering or mathematics degree courses at each university in each of the last three years. [36824]

**Mr Willetts:** Information on female applicants to higher education to science, technology, engineering or mathematics degree courses is included in the following tables and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Figures for Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency and the north-east are not available for each individual institution as numbers are too small. Figures for English domiciles to individual institutions are suppressed in cases where there are less than five applicants, or less than five accepted applicants.

*Female applicants and accepted applicants from England applying for STEM courses by institution (where numbers permit)*

|                              | 2008       |         | 2009       |         | 2010       |         |
|------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
|                              | Applicants | Accepts | Applicants | Accepts | Applicants | Accepts |
| The University of Aberdeen   | 228        | 61      | 250        | 88      | 412        | 80      |
| Aberystwyth University       | 501        | 170     | 537        | 152     | 765        | 209     |
| Anglia Ruskin University     | 644        | 185     | 692        | 220     | 760        | 287     |
| Aston University, Birmingham | 1,967      | 305     | 1,700      | 289     | 2,368      | 383     |
| Bangor University            | 1,009      | 298     | 1,073      | 336     | 1,131      | 314     |
| University of Bath           | 2,214      | 360     | 2,073      | 359     | 2,100      | 346     |

## Female applicants and accepted applicants from England applying for STEM courses by institution (where numbers permit)

|                                                 | 2008       |         | 2009       |         | 2010       |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
|                                                 | Applicants | Accepts | Applicants | Accepts | Applicants | Accepts |
| Bath Spa University                             | 621        | 106     | 591        | 87      | 720        | 116     |
| University of Bedfordshire                      | 567        | 183     | 725        | 253     | 781        | 227     |
| Birmingham City University                      | 596        | 187     | 987        | 221     | 1,219      | 262     |
| The University of Birmingham                    | 3,233      | 635     | 3,583      | 653     | 3,911      | 589     |
| University College Birmingham                   | 126        | 59      | 191        | 51      | 182        | 66      |
| Bishop Burton College                           | 62         | 19      | 50         | 18      | 45         | 26      |
| Blackburn College                               | 10         | 21      | 12         | 26      | 49         | 61      |
| The University of Bolton                        | 589        | 97      | 567        | 143     | 606        | 139     |
| Bournemouth University                          | 1,120      | 242     | 1,624      | 349     | 2,186      | 301     |
| The University of Bradford                      | 1,233      | 368     | 1,307      | 432     | 1,376      | 424     |
| University of Brighton                          | 1,257      | 264     | 1,479      | 291     | 1,698      | 329     |
| University of Bristol                           | 3,929      | 421     | 3,745      | 441     | 3,770      | 500     |
| University of the West of England, Bristol      | 1,540      | 419     | 1,644      | 462     | 2,000      | 457     |
| Brunel University                               | 2,440      | 447     | 2,510      | 512     | 2,122      | 450     |
| Buckinghamshire New University                  | 140        | 64      | 201        | 73      | 253        | 60      |
| University of Cambridge                         | 361        | 99      | 370        | 65      | 379        | 88      |
| Canterbury Christ Church University             | 778        | 192     | 869        | 211     | 919        | 200     |
| Cardiff University                              | 2,140      | 423     | 2,339      | 443     | 2,327      | 471     |
| University of Wales Institute, Cardiff          | 529        | 115     | 542        | 123     | 559        | 121     |
| University of Central Lancashire                | 1,133      | 335     | 1,373      | 379     | 1,612      | 379     |
| University of Chester                           | 1,216      | 225     | 1,053      | 169     | 1,214      | 182     |
| University of Chichester                        | 419        | 82      | 492        | 96      | 611        | 105     |
| City University                                 | 1,418      | 279     | 1,634      | 252     | 1,718      | 236     |
| Cornwall College                                | 127        | 76      | 147        | 91      | 151        | 94      |
| Coventry University                             | 1,335      | 356     | 1,474      | 418     | 1,688      | 437     |
| University of Cumbria                           | 314        | 98      | 359        | 128     | 331        | 112     |
| De Montfort University                          | 1,014      | 294     | 1,072      | 318     | 1,482      | 314     |
| University of Derby                             | 963        | 181     | 1,028      | 246     | 1,297      | 227     |
| Doncaster College                               | 35         | 22      | 39         | 16      | 47         | 13      |
| University of Dundee                            | 108        | 28      | 147        | 30      | 228        | 26      |
| Durham University                               | 2,210      | 422     | 2,111      | 447     | 2,234      | 479     |
| University of East Anglia                       | 1,232      | 367     | 1,469      | 348     | 2,064      | 417     |
| University of East London                       | 1,231      | 476     | 1,179      | 516     | 1,452      | 529     |
| Edge Hill University                            | 580        | 168     | 591        | 176     | 754        | 175     |
| The University of Edinburgh                     | 1,802      | 254     | 2,149      | 245     | 1,690      | 90      |
| Edinburgh Napier University                     | 68         | 10      | 63         | 8       | 117        | 11      |
| The University of Essex                         | 689        | 188     | 771        | 188     | 938        | 214     |
| University of Exeter                            | 2,499      | 504     | 2,915      | 499     | 2,868      | 453     |
| University of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Pontypridd | 215        | 48      | 289        | 69      | 417        | 105     |
| University of Glasgow                           | 403        | 59      | 463        | 76      | 453        | 46      |
| Glasgow Caledonian University                   | 43         | 5       | 54         | 5       | 85         | 5       |
| The University of Gloucestershire               | 568        | 172     | 634        | 186     | 639        | 163     |
| Goldsmiths (University of London)               | 875        | 179     | 870        | 135     | 806        | 126     |
| University of Greenwich                         | 1,055      | 209     | 1,110      | 213     | 1,425      | 333     |
| Harper Adams University College                 | 25         | 8       | 35         | 7       | 42         | 5       |
| Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh               | 142        | 23      | 149        | 40      | 190        | 19      |
| University of Hertfordshire                     | 2,055      | 552     | 2,248      | 676     | 2,759      | 431     |
| The University of Huddersfield                  | 1,421      | 338     | 1,290      | 357     | 1,283      | 353     |
| The University of Hull                          | 1,276      | 388     | 1,401      | 374     | 1,626      | 302     |
| Imperial College London                         | 1,342      | 274     | 1,273      | 271     | 1,222      | 251     |
| Keele University                                | 974        | 213     | 1,024      | 262     | 1,338      | 206     |
| The University of Kent                          | 1,490      | 364     | 1,787      | 390     | 2,195      | 450     |
| King's College London (University of London)    | 2,099      | 351     | 2,255      | 277     | 2,398      | 279     |
| Kingston University                             | 2,288      | 530     | 2,269      | 556     | 2,672      | 602     |
| Lancaster University                            | 1,266      | 277     | 1,170      | 291     | 1,186      | 318     |
| University of Leeds                             | 4,743      | 894     | 4,825      | 820     | 4,928      | 802     |
| Leeds Trinity University College                | 319        | 87      | 379        | 73      | 369        | 74      |
| Leeds Metropolitan University                   | 1,852      | 381     | 2,072      | 335     | 2,553      | 367     |
| University of Leicester                         | 2,002      | 367     | 1,958      | 322     | 2,363      | 358     |
| University of Lincoln                           | 941        | 271     | 1,025      | 322     | 1,344      | 311     |



*Female applicants and accepted applicants from England applying for STEM courses by institution (where numbers permit)*

|                                                                                    | 2008       |         | 2009       |         | 2010       |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
|                                                                                    | Applicants | Accepts | Applicants | Accepts | Applicants | Accepts |
| The University of Liverpool                                                        | 2,614      | 548     | 2,733      | 513     | 3,021      | 599     |
| Liverpool Hope University                                                          | 404        | 53      | 359        | 70      | 481        | 73      |
| Liverpool John Moores University                                                   | 1,296      | 393     | 1,348      | 388     | 1,566      | 477     |
| London Metropolitan University                                                     | 880        | 151     | 893        | 119     | 953        | 158     |
| London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London)            | 93         | 8       | 53         | 14      | 108        | 22      |
| London South Bank University                                                       | 1,052      | 267     | 1,274      | 249     | 1,406      | 322     |
| Loughborough College                                                               | 48         | 27      | 61         | 39      | 57         | 34      |
| Loughborough University                                                            | 1,811      | 419     | 2,089      | 341     | 2,343      | 374     |
| The University of Manchester                                                       | 4,228      | 930     | 4,478      | 902     | 4,428      | 855     |
| The Manchester Metropolitan University                                             | 2,772      | 545     | 3,122      | 595     | 3,422      | 674     |
| Medway School of Pharmacy                                                          | 289        | 57      | 354        | 99      | 456        | 105     |
| Middlesex University                                                               | 879        | 172     | 1,059      | 229     | 1,264      | 292     |
| Newcastle University                                                               | 2,001      | 356     | 2,114      | 407     | 2,302      | 441     |
| Newcastle College                                                                  | 29         | 13      | 33         | 19      | 37         | 32      |
| Newman University College, Birmingham                                              | 239        | 64      | 254        | 52      | 299        | 49      |
| University of Wales, Newport                                                       | 71         | 7       | 70         | 14      | 61         | 20      |
| University of Northampton                                                          | 840        | 155     | 891        | 196     | 848        | 210     |
| Northumbria University                                                             | 1,367      | 431     | 1,412      | 400     | 1,619      | 470     |
| Norwich City College of Further and Higher Education (an Associate College of UEA) | 40         | 27      | 46         | 24      | 62         | 34      |
| The University of Nottingham                                                       | 4,195      | 677     | 4,284      | 599     | 4,658      | 577     |
| Nottingham Trent University                                                        | 2,008      | 572     | 2,258      | 572     | 2,905      | 624     |
| Oxford University                                                                  | 922        | 289     | 1,065      | 310     | 1,238      | 290     |
| Oxford Brookes University                                                          | 982        | 146     | 1,116      | 176     | 1,277      | 174     |
| University of Plymouth                                                             | 1,852      | 562     | 1,807      | 489     | 1,884      | 551     |
| UCP Marjon University College Plymouth St Mark and St John                         | 110        | 27      | 83         | 21      | 98         | 19      |
| University of Portsmouth                                                           | 2,308      | 553     | 2,405      | 559     | 2,867      | 648     |
| Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh                                               | 99         | 14      | 105        | 15      | 99         | 5       |
| Queen Mary, University of London                                                   | 1,217      | 392     | 1,725      | 352     | 2,102      | 405     |
| Queen's University Belfast                                                         | 112        | 15      | 145        | 16      | 164        | 19      |
| The University of Reading                                                          | 2,027      | 390     | 2,169      | 338     | 2,337      | 376     |
| Rochampton University                                                              | 658        | 217     | 706        | 162     | 707        | 222     |
| Royal Holloway, University of London                                               | 1,333      | 306     | 1,188      | 288     | 1,582      | 282     |
| The University of Salford                                                          | 1,115      | 264     | 1,103      | 300     | 1,317      | 332     |
| The School of Pharmacy (University of London)                                      | 615        | 112     | 654        | 116     | 677        | 108     |
| The University of Sheffield                                                        | 2,676      | 449     | 3,097      | 488     | 3,569      | 507     |
| Sheffield Hallam University                                                        | 2,519      | 578     | 2,746      | 610     | 3,295      | 547     |
| University of Southampton                                                          | 3,004      | 499     | 3,289      | 476     | 3,461      | 537     |
| Southampton Solent University                                                      | 551        | 164     | 638        | 147     | 697        | 148     |
| University of St Andrews                                                           | 586        | 100     | 582        | 66      | 574        | 82      |
| South East Essex College (partner of the University of Essex)                      | 24         | 12      | 25         | 13      | 29         | 15      |
| St George's, University of London (formerly St George's Hospital Medical School)   | 593        | 102     | 617        | 101     | 751        | 100     |
| St Mary's University College, Twickenham                                           | 549        | 129     | 524        | 105     | 526        | 104     |
| Staffordshire University                                                           | 913        | 215     | 1,012      | 269     | 1,138      | 252     |
| The University of Stirling                                                         | 145        | 30      | 118        | 24      | 145        | 29      |
| The University of Strathclyde                                                      | 75         | 10      | 82         | 10      | 121        | 11      |
| University Campus Suffolk                                                          | 146        | 62      | 134        | 62      | 166        | 70      |
| University of Sunderland                                                           | 590        | 214     | 691        | 215     | 738        | 206     |
| University of Surrey                                                               | 1,326      | 215     | 1,532      | 247     | 993        | 202     |
| University of Sussex                                                               | 1,565      | 373     | 1,530      | 376     | 1,814      | 363     |
| Swansea University                                                                 | 598        | 126     | 604        | 175     | 861        | 193     |
| Teesside University                                                                | 860        | 308     | 890        | 319     | 1,011      | 351     |
| Thames Valley University                                                           | 246        | 81      | 238        | 96      | 313        | 150     |
| Truro and Penwith College (Formerly Truro College)                                 | 65         | 38      | 78         | 45      | 76         | 43      |
| University of the Arts London                                                      | 209        | 60      | 162        | 44      | 191        | 51      |
| University College London (University of London)                                   | 2,256      | 254     | 2,272      | 287     | 2,259      | 312     |

Female applicants and accepted applicants from England applying for STEM courses by institution (where numbers permit)

|                             | 2008       |         | 2009       |         | 2010       |         |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
|                             | Applicants | Accepts | Applicants | Accepts | Applicants | Accepts |
| The University of Warwick   | 2,562      | 281     | 2,226      | 254     | 2,367      | 292     |
| College of West Anglia      | 32         | 23      | 34         | 27      | 42         | 21      |
| University of Westminster   | 1,144      | 293     | 1,096      | 378     | 1,231      | 345     |
| University of Wolverhampton | 1,107      | 273     | 1,014      | 343     | 1,286      | 320     |
| University of Winchester    | 336        | 85      | 346        | 72      | 390        | 54      |
| University of Worcester     | 728        | 168     | 779        | 198     | 933        | 215     |
| The University of York      | 2,266      | 341     | 2,424      | 369     | 2,679      | 365     |
| York College                | 17         | 10      | 28         | 17      | 24         | 9       |
| York St John University     | 549        | 115     | 588        | 75      | 573        | 68      |

Female applicants and accepted applicants from Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency, the north-east and England applying for STEM courses

| Geographical area                        |          | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   |
|------------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency | Applied  | 102    | 119    | 99     |
|                                          | Accepted | 60     | 65     | 46     |
| North East                               | Applied  | 2,080  | 2,184  | 2,354  |
|                                          | Accepted | 1,422  | 1,349  | 1,406  |
| England                                  | Applied  | 47,823 | 50,774 | 55,038 |
|                                          | Accepted | 31,248 | 32,237 | 33,223 |

## Notes to tables:

1. Includes applicants and accepted applicants to HE courses in FE colleges.

2. Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency has been identified using the home postcode regardless of declared area of permanent residence. Declared area of permanent residence has been used to identify the region and country.

3. STEM subjects have been identified using the following subject groups and lines:

Group C: Biological Sciences;  
Group F: Physical Sciences;  
Group G: Mathematical and Computer Sciences;  
Group H: Engineering;  
Group J: Technologies;  
B1: Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology;  
B2: Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacy;  
B8: Medical Technology; and  
D7: Agricultural Sciences.

Applicants included in this extraction have applied for at least one course from these STEM subjects.

Source:  
UCAS

## Higher Education: Foreign Investment in UK

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with higher education institutions on promoting inward investment; and if he will make a statement.

[38709]

**Mr Willetts:** The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills recognises the major contribution of the higher education sector to attracting high-quality inward investment to the UK. Ministers and officials regularly engage with higher education organisations on the topic of international activities and opportunities. On 1 February I addressed a Universities UK and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) supported conference on higher education opportunities in Europe.

UKTI's R and D Partnerships programme is available free of charge to help organisations find the right UK

academic or commercial partner for research and development collaborations.

UKTI also has a University Liaison Officer who interacts with universities at a senior level to promote international engagement. This includes the potential for collaboration with internationally focused companies for inward investment or export purposes.

## Innovation: Manufacturing Industries

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications to become a technology and innovation centre focused on high value manufacturing the Technology Strategy Board has received.

[38735]

**Mr Willetts:** The Technology Strategy Board has received 142 registrations of interest from organisations interested in forming all or part of the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre.

## Money Lenders: Interest Rates

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on capping the level of interest rates charged by doorstep lenders.

[39310]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury are currently reviewing the consumer credit and personal insolvency regime. This is a thorough review of consumer credit and personal insolvency, looking at all the measures that could be taken to support people in difficulty and help them resolve their debts, including the impact of any interest rate cap on doorstep lending. A call for evidence made in connection with the review has recently closed and we are currently considering the substantial number of responses received.

The Government will make an announcement on next steps in the spring.

## Students: Fees and Charges

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on tuition fees; and if he will make a statement.

[39197]

**Mr Willetts:** Since December, when Parliament approved maximum tuition charges for academic year 2012/13, we have received a number of representations on behalf

of students, universities and other organisations. We are considering these, as well as maintaining our regular contacts with bodies representing both institutions and students, as we move to finalise the higher education student support package.

Our next legislative steps to put the new system in place are through clauses in the Education Bill currently before Parliament. These will provide for the introduction of new, more progressive, interest rates on the repayment of student loans, and also allow us to regulate tuition charges for part-time courses, to which we will be extending loan support so that eligible part-time students will no longer have to pay for tuition up-front.

#### Supermarkets: Competition

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a food prices code adjudicator for the dairy industry. [38821]

**Mr Davey:** None. In August 2010, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills announced that the Government will establish the groceries code adjudicator to enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP). The code covers the groceries supply chain, including the dairy sector, to large retailers. The Government have not considered a specific code of practice to cover food prices for the dairy industry.

#### UN Special Representative on Business: Human Rights

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the proposals to the UN by the UN Special Representative on business and human rights. [36538]

**Mr Bellingham:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government welcome the draft guiding principles developed by Professor Ruggie, the UN Special Representative on business and human rights. We believe they should offer a sure foundation for states and businesses to improve their performance with regard to human rights. The Government will consider in due course the impact of the draft principles on domestic legislation, policy practices for businesses operating in the UK and British businesses operating overseas, and implications for our foreign policy and international relations.

We have worked closely with Professor Ruggie as he refines the principles, following his consultations with businesses, states and civil society organisations. The guiding principles are due for consideration by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011 and the UK will work to build consensus for their adoption. Further information on Professor Ruggie's work in his capacity as the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Business and Human Rights is available at:

<http://www.business-humanrights.org/SpecialRepPortal/Home>

#### Universities

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on provisions by his Department to assist universities under financial pressures and at risk of closure. [39393]

**Mr Willetts:** The Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) is under a legal duty to consider the financial health of those institutions it funds. HEFCE's internal Assurance Services are responsible for monitoring financial dealings with institutions and their overall financial health. It undertakes audit work in institutions and assesses institutional risk.

Where an institution is identified as at high risk they receive intensive expert support and financial assistance where appropriate. However, as they are autonomous institutions if a university does mismanage its affairs, we cannot offer a guarantee of protection.

#### WORK AND PENSIONS

##### Asbestos

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls the Health and Safety Executive's asbestos hotline number received (a) in each of the last five years and (b) in 2011 to date. [38439]

**Chris Grayling:** The Health and Safety Executive does not have an asbestos hotline number. Access to general health and safety information is provided through its Infoline contact centre service.

In each of the last five years the number of calls received concerning asbestos was:

|      | Number of calls received |
|------|--------------------------|
| 2006 | 9,137                    |
| 2007 | 9,705                    |
| 2008 | 24,076                   |
| 2009 | 14,917                   |
| 2010 | 12,550                   |

The numbers of calls are high in 2008 and 2009 when the Health and Safety Executive ran asbestos awareness campaigns.

For 2011 the total number of asbestos related calls received up to and including 1 February was:

|      | Number of calls received |
|------|--------------------------|
| 2011 | 862                      |

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time inspectors are employed in the Health and Safety Executive's asbestos division; and how many he expects to be employed in that division in each of the next five years. [38440]

**Chris Grayling:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not have an 'Asbestos Division' per se. However, relevant HSE inspectors are all appropriately trained and possess the necessary skills and competence to be able to deal with asbestos during any interventions they may undertake. Should specialist resource be required, this is also available within HSE.

##### Asbestos: Enforcement

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (a) prosecutions there were and (b) enforcement and prohibition notices were issued by the Health and Safety Executive regarding asbestos in each of the last five years. [38441]



**Chris Grayling:** The number of prosecutions brought and completed by HSE for breaches of asbestos regulations in each of the last five years is as follows:

|         | Prosecutions |
|---------|--------------|
| 2005-06 | 15           |
| 2006-07 | 9            |
| 2007-08 | 16           |
| 2008-09 | 16           |
| 2009-10 | 12           |

The number of enforcement (improvement and prohibition) notices issued by HSE for breaches of asbestos regulations in each of the last five years is:

|         | Improvement notices | Prohibition notices | Total enforcement notices |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 2005-06 | 29                  | 61                  | 90                        |
| 2006-07 | 67                  | 76                  | 143                       |
| 2007-08 | 93                  | 80                  | 173                       |
| 2008-09 | 130                 | 91                  | 221                       |
| 2009-10 | 219                 | 124                 | 343                       |

#### Asbestos: Publicity

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the most recent phase of the Health and Safety Executive's Hidden Killer campaign. [38437]

**Chris Grayling:** The most recent phase of the Health and Safety Executive's Hidden Killer campaign ran throughout November and early December 2009, with a further activity in February 2010. The total cost of the activity was £1.78 million.

Activity included targeted radio and press advertising, PR activity, stakeholder activity, direct mail and online marketing.

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what mechanism the Health and Safety Executive monitored the effectiveness of the first two phases of its Hidden Killer campaign; and what the findings were. [38438]

**Chris Grayling:** The Health and Safety Executive advises Government on matters relating to worker safety and occupational illness. HSE's evidence is that asbestos is Britain's biggest industrial killer, responsible for an estimated 4,000 deaths per year. HSE's 'Asbestos: Hidden Killer' campaign was aimed at tradespeople such as plumbers, electricians and joiners who are the group currently at highest risk from exposure to potentially fatal asbestos fibres.

Evidence has been used to inform the Hidden Killer project from the start with independent researchers monitoring the effectiveness of all phases of the campaign.

Full details of the evaluation on both phases are available on HSE's website at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/hiddenkiller/finding-out-more.htm>

Continental Research evaluated the first national wave of activity (February 2009); their results demonstrated the campaign achieved excellent recognition with 80%

of the target audience aware of publicity surrounding asbestos and 72% aware of specific elements of the press or radio adverts. Crucially 89% of the target audience agreed that the adverts were "aimed at someone like me" and over half of those who saw or heard the advertising claim to have taken more safety precautions when working with asbestos.

The second wave of national activity was evaluated by BMG Research and demonstrates further significant uplifts in already high levels of awareness surrounding the risk of asbestos (to 85%). The attitudinal response remained positive with significant uplifts in the proportion agreeing it is "aimed at someone like me" (to 93%) and that if "got me thinking about my exposure at work" (90%). Outcomes include that nine in 10 of those who recognise an element of the campaign report having taken, or planning to take, some action as a result.

Traffic to HSE's website has been monitored with a 600% increase on page requests compared to a similar period the year before.

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will (a) commission and (b) fund a public information campaign to warn construction workers of the dangers posed by asbestos following the cancellation of his Department's Hidden Killer campaign. [38442]

**Chris Grayling:** The 'Hidden Killer' campaign has not been cancelled. It is currently in a phase of assessment and evaluation to enable HSE to determine the way forward. The web pages, and other materials, are still accessible and available and additional elements are being actively considered by HSE for possible future delivery. The target audiences for any activity that emerges from this process will continue to include construction workers, especially trades such as plumbers, electricians, joiners, plasterers and decorators.

#### Atos Origin

**Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of its contract with Atos Healthcare to carry out work capability assessments for employment and support allowance claims in each of the last two years. [37668]

**Chris Grayling:** The total cost of the DWP Medical Services contract with Atos Healthcare, a division of Atos Origin, is in the region of £100 million per annum. This estimate covers the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits and also includes costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

The total amount paid to Atos Healthcare by DWP for the scrutiny, face to face and work focused health related assessment reports was in:

2008-09: £1.7 million

2009-10: £24.4 million

These figures do not include costs relating to fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

### Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

**Ms Bagshawe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty domestic boiler installation. [38362]

**Chris Grayling:** Legislation requires anyone who installs gas appliances to be on a statutory register. Gas Safe Register operates this registration scheme under an agreement with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Engineers must demonstrate their competence to join the scheme through the successful completion of independent assessments and are reassessed every five years. Gas Safe Register has over 80 inspectors who carry out risk based inspections of gas work by registered engineers and since the launch of the scheme on 1 April 2009 over 68,650 such inspections have been completed. Gas Safe Register also has a dedicated team who investigate those who carry out gas work but are not registered.

HSE takes enforcement action where breaches of gas safety legislation are identified and around 10% of the total offences prosecuted by HSE relate to gas safety. Since 1 April 2010 HSE has prosecuted 34 gas safety related cases and issued 148 enforcement notices.

HSE and Gas Safe Register also work to raise consumer awareness of the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning, through awareness raising promotions and media campaigns.

**Ms Bagshawe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to raise the level of awareness of the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty domestic boiler installation. [38363]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government takes gas safety and awareness of carbon monoxide issues very seriously and provides significant information on websites and in published information. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advises consumers to always use a Gas Safe registered engineer for all gas work in their home, including domestic boiler installation, and to ensure that any gas appliances are regularly serviced and maintained. Although not a substitute for the correct installation or maintenance of an appliance, HSE also strongly recommends the use of audible carbon monoxide alarms.

In April 2009 HSE launched the Gas Safe Register, the statutory registration scheme for gas engineers. The scheme has the strong focus of raising consumer awareness of gas safety risks and has undertaken significant campaigns, including national TV advertising, coverage on a wide variety of consumer programmes and national and regional press and radio, along with regional and community events. Research by the Gas Safe Register has shown that 81% of consumers are aware of gas safety risks and the Gas Safe Register.

HSE and Gas Safe Register continue to work to raise awareness of the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning, including focusing on vulnerable groups. The 'Let's talk gas safety' campaign focused at the Over 65's has recently launched, involving close working with local 'Age UK' groups and this will be supplemented throughout the year with both general and targeted awareness raising promotions and ongoing media campaigns.

### Carers' Benefits

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with carers' organisations on the proposed changes in carers' benefits; and if he will make a statement. [38166]

**Maria Miller:** The Government recognise that the United Kingdom's six million carers play an indispensable role in looking after family members or friends who need support.

We have had discussions with disabled people, their carers and a broad range of organisations from grass-root and user-led organisations to umbrella groups and national charities, including representatives of Carers UK, on a range of carer issues, including benefits.

The Government are currently considering whether changes to carer's allowance will be necessary to take account of the introduction of universal credit and provide clearer, more effective support for carers. We will continue to have ongoing discussions with a broad range of organisations to ensure carers get the personalised support they need with respect to their caring responsibilities, to have a normal family and community life, fulfil their educational and employment potential and maintain good health.

### Child Maintenance

**Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many open cases including new claims were added to the Child Support Agency IT system in each of the last three years; and how many open cases were removed from the system in order to be administered manually in each such year. [37674]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

#### Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many open cases including new claims were added to the Child Support Agency IT system in each of the last three years; and how many open cases were removed from the system in order to be administered clerically in each such year. [37674]

The table below shows the number of cases added to the CS2 computer system each quarter; the number of cases input onto the Agency Clerical Case Database each quarter and the overall live and assessed caseload each quarter.

| Quarter ending | Cases entered onto CS2 computer system | Cases entered onto clerical case database | Overall agency live and assessed caseload |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| December 2007  | 45,900                                 | 600                                       | 1,226,400                                 |
| March 2008     | 48,100                                 | 4,700                                     | 1,237,100                                 |
| June 2008      | 42,400                                 | 3,400                                     | 1,263,600                                 |

| Quarter ending | Cases entered onto CS2 computer system | Cases entered onto clerical case database | Overall agency live and assessed caseload |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| September 2008 | 28,000                                 | 5,100                                     | 1,265,200                                 |
| December 2008  | 20,400                                 | 7,300                                     | 1,263,500                                 |
| March 2009     | 24,000                                 | 12,500                                    | 1,245,000                                 |
| June 2009      | 24,200                                 | 7,500                                     | 1,234,400                                 |
| September 2009 | 26,400                                 | 11,200                                    | 1,219,100                                 |
| December 2009  | 22,600                                 | 9,300                                     | 1,213,100                                 |
| March 2010     | 27,500                                 | 5,800                                     | 1,150,800                                 |
| June 2010      | 27,000                                 | 5,200                                     | 1,150,800                                 |
| September 2010 | 28,500                                 | 4,400                                     | 1,153,900                                 |

**Notes:**

1. The number of cases added to the CS2 computer system differs from the new application intake figures that are published in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The new application intake figures include applications that may not have resulted in them becoming live cases entered on the CS2 computer system.

2. Cases entered onto the Clerical Case Database include cases that were initially entered onto the CS2 computer system as well as those entered directly onto the Clerical Case Database.

Many cases that are progressed off system and entered onto the Agency's Clerical Case Database are initially added to the CS2 computer system. In most cases where the case goes clerical we do not remove the case from CS2 and we do not track removals from CS2 as a result of going clerical. Some cases go straight onto the clerical case database directly either because they are linked to other clerical cases or because they encounter technical issues before they are fully created on the CS2 computer system.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many open cases there were with the Child Support Agency in each of the last three years; and how many such open cases were being administered (a) through the agency's IT system and (b) manually. [37676]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

**Letter from Stephen Geraghty:**

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many open cases there were with the Child Support Agency in each of the last three years; and how many such open cases were being administered (a) through the Agency's IT system and (b) clerically. [37676]

The table below shows the volume of live and assessed cases administered by the Child Support Agency each quarter and of those cases, those administered on the Agency's main IT systems as well as those administered off system and recorded on its Clerical Case Database.

Many of the cases administered off system have historic debt on the Agency's main IT systems. These cases are included only under "administered clerically" in this table.

| Quarter ending | Overall agency live and assessed case load | Administered on agency Legacy IT systems | Administered clerically |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| June 2008      | 1,263,600                                  | 1,227,900                                | 35,700                  |
| September 2008 | 1,265,200                                  | 1,225,300                                | 39,900                  |
| December 2008  | 1,263,500                                  | 1,219,000                                | 44,500                  |
| March 2009     | 1,245,000                                  | 1,194,100                                | 50,900                  |
| June 2009      | 1,234,400                                  | 1,177,500                                | 56,900                  |
| September 2009 | 1,219,100                                  | 1,155,000                                | 64,100                  |
| December 2009  | 1,213,100                                  | 1,141,200                                | 71,900                  |
| March 2010     | 1,150,800                                  | 1,071,800                                | 78,900                  |
| June 2010      | 1,150,800                                  | 1,066,100                                | 84,700                  |
| September 2010 | 1,153,900                                  | 1,065,100                                | 88,900                  |

**Notes:**

1. A split between cases administered on IT systems and those administered clerically can only be accurately reflected after March 2008.

2. The figures above showing the number of cases administered off system (clerically) differs from a total clerical case load data figure published in the QSS. The total clerical caseload figure in the QSS includes live and suspended cases. Not all of these form part of the agency live and assessed caseload figure which is also published in the QSS.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the findings were for Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's monitoring and evaluation of the use of deduction orders within child maintenance; what conclusions the Commission has reached regarding extension of the use of deduction orders to cover a non-resident parent's joint bank account; and if he will make a statement. [37936]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

**Letter from Stephen Geraghty:**

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the findings were for Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's monitoring and evaluation of the use of deduction orders within child maintenance; what conclusions the Commission has reached regarding extension of the use of deduction orders to cover a non-resident parent's joint bank account; and if he will make a statement. [37936]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's monitoring and evaluation of the use of deduction orders, as a means of collecting child maintenance payments, has been completed. The final draft of the report has been reviewed and it is expected that the results will be published shortly.

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what proportion of child maintenance cases with an assessment and payment scheme was (a) 100 per cent., (b) less than 100 per cent. but more than



50 per cent., (c) some but less than 50 per cent. and (d) none of the child maintenance due paid in each of the last five years. [37937]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in what proportion of child maintenance cases with an assessment and payment scheme was (a) 100 per cent., (b) less than 100 per cent. but more than 50 per cent., (c) some but less than 50 per cent. and (d) none of the child maintenance due paid in each of the last five years. [37937]

The table below shows the proportion of cases with a positive liability where parents with care have received maintenance in full, the proportion that have received maintenance in part and the proportion of those that have not received any maintenance in each quarter for the past five years.

| Date        | Percentage receiving maintenance in full | Percentage receiving maintenance in part | Percentage not receiving maintenance |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>2005</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| December    | 45                                       | 18                                       | 37                                   |
| <b>2006</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| March       | 46                                       | 18                                       | 37                                   |
| June        | 46                                       | 18                                       | 36                                   |
| September   | 46                                       | 18                                       | 36                                   |
| December    | 46                                       | 19                                       | 36                                   |
| <b>2007</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| March       | 46                                       | 18                                       | 35                                   |
| June        | 46                                       | 18                                       | 35                                   |
| September   | 49                                       | 16                                       | 35                                   |
| December    | 48                                       | 17                                       | 35                                   |
| <b>2008</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| March       | 49                                       | 18                                       | 33                                   |
| June        | 50                                       | 18                                       | 32                                   |
| September   | 51                                       | 18                                       | 31                                   |
| December    | 50                                       | 18                                       | 33                                   |
| <b>2009</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| March       | 51                                       | 20                                       | 29                                   |
| June        | 53                                       | 20                                       | 28                                   |
| September   | 53                                       | 20                                       | 27                                   |
| December    | 53                                       | 22                                       | 26                                   |
| <b>2010</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| March       | 59                                       | 18                                       | 23                                   |
| June        | 57                                       | 20                                       | 23                                   |
| September   | 57                                       | 19                                       | 24                                   |

**Notes:**

1. Cases are counted as having a positive maintenance outcome if they have received a payment via the collection service in the quarter or have a maintenance direct agreement in place.
2. Cases receiving maintenance in full includes cases which are fully compliant over the quarter, maintenance direct at the end of the quarter or where no maintenance has been requested in the quarter yet some maintenance was received.
3. Cases receiving maintenance in part includes those cases that have paid less than the requested amount each quarter. This will include cases that have paid in full but because of timing issues at the end of a quarter, the maintenance receipt has not been fully processed by quarter end.
4. Cases not receiving maintenance include cases with a maintenance liability that have not received any maintenance in the quarter.
5. Figures after March 2008 include the performance of cases administered off system.

I regret that with currently available information it is not possible to answer accurately what proportion of cases paying something but not 100%, paid more or less than 50% of the child maintenance due. For this reason, information has not been provided. Work is currently underway to develop new performance measures that will allow us to answer this in the future.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Departmental Information Officers**

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38951]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is as follows:

| Department for Work and Pensions communications directorate                                                                                                                                                         |  | Number |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------|
| Press officers (including regional press)                                                                                                                                                                           |  | 28     |
| Internal communications officers                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | 33     |
| External communications officers                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | 88     |
| Other positions with a communications remit                                                                                                                                                                         |  | 42     |
| External communications and communications strategy officers are one and the same role in the DWP communications directorate.                                                                                       |  |        |
| Figures reflect only the number of officers in employment and are not indicative of the full-time equivalent figures (FTE). They also include those that are currently on leave (maternity, special, adoption etc.) |  |        |
| Businesses                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | Number |
| Pension, Disability and Carers Service                                                                                                                                                                              |  |        |
| Internal Communications Officers                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | 19     |
| Jobcentre Plus                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |        |
| Internal Communications Officers                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | 6      |

*Non-departmental public bodies*

Pensions Ombudsman/Pensions Protection Fund ombudsman:  
Nil response

The Pension Advisory Service: Nil response

Social Security Advisory Council: Nil response

|                                                     | Number |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Pension Protection Fund</i>                      |        |
| Press officers                                      | 2      |
| Internal communications officers                    | 2      |
| External communications officers                    | 2      |
| <i>The Pensions Regulator</i>                       |        |
| Press officers                                      | 4      |
| Internal communications officers                    | 2      |
| External communications officers                    | 14     |
| Communications strategy officers                    | 2      |
| <i>Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission</i> |        |
| Press officers                                      | 4      |
| Internal communications officers                    | 10     |
| External communications officers                    | 1      |
| <i>Remploy Ltd.</i>                                 |        |
| Press officers                                      | 2      |
| Internal communications officers                    | 2      |
| External communications officers                    | 4      |
| Communications strategy officers                    | 2      |
| <i>National Employment Savings Trust</i>            |        |
| Press officers                                      | 1      |
| Internal communications officers                    | 2      |
| External communications officers                    | 6      |
| Communications strategy officers                    | 3      |
| Other positions with a communications remit         | 16     |
| <i>Health and Safety Executive</i>                  |        |
| Press officers                                      | 8      |
| Internal communications officers                    | 9      |
| External communications officers                    | 5      |
| Communications strategy officers                    | 7      |
| Other positions with a communications remit         | 4      |
| <i>Independent Living Fund</i>                      |        |
| Communications strategy officers                    | 1      |
| Other positions with a communications remit         | 2      |

**Departmental Manpower**

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff of his Department are employed on fixed-term contracts; and what the job title of each is. [38524]

**Chris Grayling:** The number of staff employed on a fixed term contract at 31 December 2010 is shown in the following table. For comparison purposes the figures represent both headcount and full-time equivalent staff. The Department does not hold details of job titles centrally. Departmental grades have been provided instead.

| Grade                           | Headcount | Full-time equivalent |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Band A/Administrative Assistant | 188       | 168.33               |
| Band B/Administrative Officer   | 5,865     | 5,617.91             |
| Band C/Executive Officer        | 3,253     | 3,186.71             |
| Band D/Higher Executive Officer | 36        | 35.43                |
| Band E/Senior Executive Officer | 9         | 9                    |
| Band F/Grade 7                  | 11        | 10.69                |
| Band G/Grade 6                  | 4         | 4                    |
| Senior Civil Service 1          | 3         | 2.6                  |
| Grand Total                     | 9,369     | 9,034.67             |

The Department's total staffing figure for the same period is 112,135 headcount which equates to 100,735 full-time equivalent staff.

**Departmental Pay**

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34806]

**Chris Grayling:** We believe that there are 530 sub-contracted staff servicing the Department in London who are paid at a rate below the London living wage. These comprise 400 cleaners; 30 caterers and 100 providing general office services.

**Departmental Public Expenditure**

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on hospitality since May 2010. [38527]

**Chris Grayling:** All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Expenditure on hospitality to December 2010 is less than £3,000.

The Department is reviewing all expenditure with a view to driving out efficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on taxis since May 2010. [38529]

**Chris Grayling:** Expenditure on taxis since May 2010, has been reduced by 26% against the comparable period last year, as follows:

| Period                    | Expenditure (£) |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| May 2010 to December 2010 | 1,049,074       |
| May 2009 to December 2010 | 1,415,747       |
| Percentage reduction      | 26              |

It should be noted that this expenditure includes, expenditure to allow access to work for staff with disabilities, to enable the DWP to meet its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act.

The total expenditure set out above needs to be seen in the context of a Department with over 100,000 staff based in over 900 locations throughout Great Britain.

The Department is reviewing all expenditure with a view to driving out inefficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

#### Disability Living Allowance

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people (a) in each age group, (b) of each sex, (c) with each disability and (d) in total receive an automatic entitlement to disability living allowance. [39358]

**Maria Miller:** The total number of people receiving DLA as a result of a specific condition under which they are deemed to satisfy conditions of entitlement is 55,660.

This figure is broken down by condition, gender and age group as requested, in the tables.

The definitions of each condition are included within the following regulations; which can be found in the House Library:

For terminally ill, the rules are primarily contained in section 72(5) for care component; and section 73(12) for mobility component of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992. There are minor provisions relating to the terminally ill in regulations 2(4), 10(6) and 12B(9A) of the Disability Living Allowance Regulations 1991.

For Severely Mentally Impaired, double amputee, deaf blind and haemodialysis, the primary powers are 73(3), 73(1), 73(2) and 72(7) respectively of the Contribution and Benefits Act 1992.

The conditions are defined in the Disability Living Allowance Regulations 1991 as follows:

Severely mentally impaired—Regulation 12(5)&(6)

Double amputee—Regulation 12(1)(b)

Deaf/Blind—Regulation 12(2)&(3)

Haemodialysis—Regulation 7

Total disability living allowance recipients by primary disabling condition<sup>1</sup> and age, May 2010 Great Britain

| Automatic entitlement condition | All    | Not known | Under 16 | 16-17 | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64  | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85-89 | 90+ |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Terminally Ill                  | 36,720 | —         | 480      | 50    | 310   | 830   | 3,160 | 8,110 | 16,510 | 6,070 | 1,120 | 70    | 10  |
| Severely Mentally Impaired      | 16,800 | —         | 5,510    | 1,200 | 3,750 | 2,190 | 1,610 | 1,400 | 810    | 270   | 60    | —     | —   |
| Double Amputee                  | 1,040  | —         | 50       | —     | 50    | 90    | 140   | 180   | 250    | 220   | 60    | —     | —   |
| Deaf/Blind                      | 570    | —         | 20       | 10    | 20    | 60    | 70    | 130   | 110    | 100   | 50    | —     | —   |
| Haemodialysis                   | 530    | —         | 10       | —     | 10    | 40    | 80    | 140   | 130    | 80    | 30    | —     | —   |

Disability living allowance recipients by primary disabling condition<sup>1</sup> and age, May 2010 Great Britain, males

| Automatic entitlement condition | All    | Not known | Under 16 | 16-17 | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85-89 | 90+ |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Terminally Ill                  | 18,220 | —         | 250      | 30    | 170   | 380   | 1,270 | 3,620 | 8,540 | 3,350 | 590   | 30    | 10  |
| Severely Mentally Impaired      | 12,030 | —         | 4,310    | 920   | 2,730 | 1,490 | 1,040 | 880   | 470   | 150   | 30    | —     | —   |
| Double Amputee                  | 760    | —         | 30       | —     | 40    | 60    | 90    | 130   | 190   | 170   | 50    | —     | —   |
| Deaf/Blind                      | 290    | —         | 10       | —     | 10    | 40    | 30    | 50    | 60    | 60    | 20    | —     | —   |
| Haemodialysis                   | 300    | —         | 10       | —     | —     | 20    | 40    | 70    | 90    | 40    | 20    | —     | —   |

Disability living allowance recipients by primary disabling condition<sup>1</sup> and age, May 2010 Great Britain, females

| Automatic entitlement condition | All    | Not known | Under 16 | 16-17 | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85-89 | 90+ |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Terminally Ill                  | 18,490 | —         | 230      | 20    | 140   | 460   | 1,890 | 4,480 | 7,980 | 2,720 | 530   | 40    | —   |
| Severely Mentally Impaired      | 4,780  | —         | 1,210    | 280   | 1,020 | 700   | 570   | 520   | 340   | 120   | 30    | —     | —   |
| Double Amputee                  | 290    | —         | 20       | —     | 20    | 30    | 50    | 50    | 60    | 50    | 20    | —     | —   |



Disability living allowance recipients by primary disabling condition<sup>1</sup> and age, May 2010 Great Britain, females

| Automatic entitlement condition | All | Not known | Under 16 | 16-17 | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85-89 | 90+ |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Deaf/Blind                      | 280 | —         | 10       | 10    | 10    | 20    | 40    | 70    | 50    | 30    | 30    | —     | —   |
| Haemodialysis                   | 230 | —         | —        | —     | 10    | 20    | 40    | 60    | 40    | 40    | 10    | —     | —   |

<sup>1</sup> In published breakdowns by disabling condition, normal practice is to reallocate terminally ill cases to their underlying medical condition (usually malignant disease). As this question specifically asks about automatic entitlement of which terminal illness makes up the largest group, this reallocation has not been done in this case.

**Notes:**

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. A primary disabling condition of terminally ill, severely mentally impaired, double amputee, deaf/blind or haemodialysis qualifies an individual for automatic entitlement to disability living allowance.

**Source:**

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100% WPLS

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people (a) in each age group, (b) of each sex, (c) with each disability and (d) in total in receipt of disability living allowance state on their application that they had had the illness or disability for between three and six months. [39359]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is not recorded by the Pensions Disability and Carers Service and is therefore not available.

Customers are asked on the disability living allowance claim form when their help with getting around outdoors or personal care needs first started. This is because there is no entitlement to the mobility or care components respectively, unless a period of three months has elapsed during which the conditions of entitlement to one or both of these components is satisfied. This qualifying period is in place to ensure the benefit is received by people with longer term disabilities and not those incapacitated for a short time.

Information on whether a claimant has an illness or disability for between three and six months is not relevant for the purposes of the current assessment and so is not recorded.

#### Disability Living Allowance: Mobility

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in receipt of disability living allowance who use aids and adaptations to improve their mobility. [39357]

**Maria Miller:** Information about aids and adaptations is requested on the disability living allowance claim form, however this information may relate to either the care or mobility component or both components.

This information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

#### Employment and Support Allowance

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average frequency with which an approved healthcare professional's advice to a decision maker determining eligibility for employment and support allowance differs from that of the customer's doctor in the latest period for which figures are available. [37869]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is not held. The approved health care professional provides advice to the decision maker in relation to the eligibility criteria for ESA. The customer's doctor provides medical evidence, usually in the form of a statement of fitness to work, but this does not relate to the eligibility criteria for ESA. It is therefore not possible to make any comparison between advice from the health care professional and medical evidence from the customer's doctor.

#### Health and Safety: Heating

**Mr Causby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints the Health and Safety Executive received from employees about heat in the workplace in the latest period for which figures are available. [39703]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

#### Housing Benefit

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local authority housing benefit staff he expects to transfer into his Department under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 rules; and when he expects such transfers to take place. [38684]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of universal credit. We have not yet finalised the detail and therefore the impact on organisations currently delivering benefits that universal credit will replace. In respect of housing, we are working closely with local authorities and the housing sector as our plans develop.

#### Incapacity Benefit

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the relationship between the incidence of emergency hospital admissions and the number of (a) incapacity benefit claimants and (b) unemployed people in an area. [38726]

**Maria Miller:** The Department has not assessed the relationship between the incidence of emergency hospital admissions and the number of incapacity benefits claimants nor unemployed people. We also have no plans to do so.

**Industrial Health and Safety**

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the causes were of fatal accidents in the workplace in each of the last five years. [39305]

**Chris Grayling:** Notifications of workplace fatal injuries occurring in Great Britain are made under RIDDOR—the

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. The following table provides a breakdown of fatal injuries to workers and members of the public, by the kind of accident recorded for the incident. The data cover the period 2005-06 to 2009-10.

*Fatal injuries to workers and members of the public, 2005-06 to 2009-10<sup>1</sup>*

| <i>Kind of accident</i>                             | <i>2005-06</i> | <i>2006-07</i> | <i>2007-08</i> | <i>2008-09</i> | <i>2009-10<sup>1</sup></i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Workers</i>                                      |                |                |                |                |                            |
| Contact with moving machinery                       | 21             | 13             | 17             | 20             | 12                         |
| Struck by moving, including flying/falling, object  | 34             | 41             | 37             | 27             | 25                         |
| Struck by moving vehicle                            | 38             | 30             | 38             | 25             | 22                         |
| Strike against something fixed or stationary        | 6              | 8              | 10             | 8              | 5                          |
| Injured while handling, lifting or carrying         | 1              | 7              | 2              | 1              | 1                          |
| Slips, trips or falls on same level                 | 6              | 4              | 3              | 5              | 5                          |
| Falls from a height, of which:                      | 48             | 52             | 55             | 39             | 38                         |
| —up to and including 2 metres                       | 10             | 9              | 8              | 3              | 5                          |
| —over 2 metres                                      | 26             | 37             | 43             | 29             | 25                         |
| —height not stated                                  | 12             | 6              | 4              | 7              | 8                          |
| Trapped by something collapsing/overturning         | 11             | 19             | 17             | 20             | 15                         |
| Drowning or asphyxiation                            | 3              | 16             | 7              | 4              | 2                          |
| Exposure to, or contact with, a harmful substance   | 7              | 5              | 1              | 2              | 2                          |
| Exposure to fire                                    | 4              | 1              | 8              | —              | —                          |
| Exposure to an explosion                            | 4              | 5              | 3              | 3              | 1                          |
| Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge | 11             | 18             | 10             | 7              | 3                          |
| Injured by an animal                                | 2              | 11             | 4              | 1              | 4                          |
| Acts of violence                                    | 1              | 3              | 7              | 4              | 1                          |
| Other kind of accident                              | 12             | 4              | 11             | 7              | 10                         |
| Injuries where cause not notified                   | 8              | 10             | 3              | 6              | 6                          |
| <b>Total</b>                                        | <b>217</b>     | <b>247</b>     | <b>233</b>     | <b>179</b>     | <b>152</b>                 |
| <i>Members of the public</i>                        |                |                |                |                |                            |
| Contact with moving machinery                       | —              | 1              | —              | —              | 2                          |
| Struck by moving, including flying/falling, object  | 2              | 8              | 4              | 8              | 4                          |
| Struck by moving vehicle                            | 8              | 12             | 7              | 4              | 5                          |
| Strike against something fixed or stationary        | 3              | —              | 1              | 5              | 5                          |
| Injured while handling, lifting or carrying         | —              | —              | 1              | —              | —                          |
| Slips, trips or falls on same level                 | 17             | 7              | 12             | 8              | 9                          |
| Falls from a height, of which:                      | 38             | 46             | 22             | 40             | 23                         |
| —up to and including 2 metres                       | 9              | 11             | 8              | 9              | 7                          |
| —over 2 metres                                      | 11             | 11             | 2              | 9              | 9                          |
| —height not stated                                  | 18             | 24             | 12             | 22             | 7                          |
| Trapped by something collapsing/overturning         | —              | 1              | 1              | —              | —                          |
| Drowning or asphyxiation                            | 7              | 14             | 9              | 18             | 12                         |
| Exposure to, or contact with, a harmful substance   | 3              | 3              | 7              | 3              | 2                          |
| Exposure to fire                                    | —              | 3              | —              | 5              | 3                          |
| Exposure to an explosion                            | —              | —              | 1              | —              | —                          |
| Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge | 5              | 11             | 5              | 8              | 6                          |
| Injured by an animal                                | 4              | 3              | —              | 4              | 3                          |
| Acts of violence                                    | 2              | 2              | 2              | 2              | 2                          |
| Other kind of accident                              | 312            | 303            | 297            | 321            | 318                        |
| Injuries where cause not notified                   | 2              | 3              | 4              | 2              | 1                          |
| <b>Total</b>                                        | <b>401</b>     | <b>415</b>     | <b>371</b>     | <b>426</b>     | <b>393</b>                 |

<sup>1</sup> Provisional.

<sup>2</sup> Physical injuries resulting from acts of violence suffered by people at work are reportable under RIDDOR, but physical injuries resulting from acts of violence suffered by members of the public are not.

*Note:*

Further background is detailed in the 'Special Points' section.

### Minimum Wage

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on the self-employed of assuming income at the national minimum wage for the purposes of assessing entitlement to universal credit. [37754]

**Chris Grayling:** The self-employed, like other employees, will benefit from improved incentives in universal credit to increase their working hours and earnings. At the same time, once established in work, we would expect them to see a reasonable income from their activity and become less reliant on benefits.

The impact of a minimum floor of assumed income in universal credit will depend on the manner and circumstances in which it is applied. We are still exploring these issues and are therefore unable to provide an assessment of its likely effects at this stage.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Madeline Marsh) of 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 795W, on mortgages: Government assistance, what representations his Department has received from mortgage lenders on their ability to (a) freeze the mortgage accounts of claimants of support for mortgage interest and (b) apply a standard interest rate for a fixed period; and if he will make a statement. [31351]

**Steve Webb:** We have spoken to the Council of Mortgage Lenders and also to lenders themselves. The Council recently wrote to Ministers with their views. We will consider this, along with other representations, as we continue to look at a number of options for reform of support for homeowners.

### Pensions

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average additional basic state pension entitlement is for a (a) woman and (b) man retiring in 2011. [39360]

**Steve Webb:** The information available is in the following table.

*Average amount of weekly state second pension/state earnings related pension scheme for new claimants at state pension age*

|        | £ cash terms<br>March 2011 |
|--------|----------------------------|
| Male   | 30                         |
| Female | 19                         |

#### Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1.
2. Award relates to the average weekly amount of state second pension/state earnings related pension scheme in payment to someone claiming at state pension age in a particular year, and exclude those above state pension age receiving a deferred claim.
3. Figures do not include graduated retirement benefit.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average forecast basic state pension entitlement is for a (a) woman and (b) man retiring in 2018. [39361]

**Steve Webb:** The available information is in the following table:

*Table 1: Average amount of weekly Basic State Pension for new claimants at State Pension age (£, cash terms) as at March 2018*

|        | £   |
|--------|-----|
| Male   | 122 |
| Female | 109 |

#### Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1.
2. Award relates to the average weekly amount of Basic State Pension in payment to someone claiming Basic State Pension at State Pension age in a particular year. They exclude those above State Pension age receiving a deferred claim.
3. Figures do not include Graduated Retirement Benefit.
4. Figures include claimants living overseas.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average forecast basic state pension entitlement is for a (a) woman and (b) man retiring in 2016; [39362]

(2) what the average forecast basic state pension entitlement is for a (a) woman and (b) man retiring in 2011. [39363]

**Steve Webb:** The information available is in the following table.

*Average amount of weekly basic state pension for new claimants at state pension age*

|        | March 2011 | £ cash terms<br>March 2016 |
|--------|------------|----------------------------|
| Male   | 93         | 111                        |
| Female | 84         | 101                        |

#### Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1.
2. Award relates to the average weekly amount of basic state pension in payment to someone claiming basic state pension at state pension age in a particular year. They exclude those above state pension age receiving a deferred claim.
3. Figures do not include graduated retirement benefit.

### Asbestos: Publicity

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding previously allocated to the Health and Safety Executive's Hidden Killer campaign has been reallocated to fund redundancies. [38600]

**Chris Grayling:** I can confirm that no funds have been reallocated from HSE's communications budget to fund redundancies. HSE is currently assessing progress on the Hidden Killer campaign to date, with materials and information still available online. Tackling asbestos-related disease remains a priority for HSE in our communications activity and enforcement work.

### Social Security Benefits

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the (a) reduction in the number of (i) claimants and (ii) benefit spending, (b) additional administrative cost and (c) overall change in the level of revenue to the Exchequer of completing a new work capability assessment in respect of employment and support allowance every (A) year and (B) two years. [38673]



**Chris Grayling:** A key factor in determining eligibility for employment and support allowance is the work capability assessment (WCA). The WCAs are carried out by health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare. Claimants attend regular WCAs, based on the prognosis given by the health care professional at their original, or last assessment—at intervals which vary from a minimum of 3 months and maximum of two years, dependant on the nature of the individual's condition. This ensures that people are in the correct group and receiving the right support as their capabilities change.

The information requested is not available and could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

#### Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many decisions on benefit appeals by customers in north east Scotland were outstanding (a) prior to the reassessment trial and (b) at the end of the trial period. [37630]

**Chris Grayling:** The latest available data show that, as at September 2010, the total number of benefit appeals held for Scotland is 22,631, of which 13,846 relate to employment and support allowance and incapacity benefit. Information on appeals is not available at individual area level.

Figures for the IB reassessment trial are not available as the trial is still under way. It is too early to provide information on the numbers of customers who have asked to appeal against their decision as not all customers have completed their reassessment. Initial information on the trial outcomes and evaluation will be made available to customer representative groups and other stakeholders at the end of the month.

#### Social Security Benefits: Osteoarthritis

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency successfully claimed benefits for osteoarthritis in each of the last five years. [39366]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is contained in the following tables.

*Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment support allowance (ESA) recipients in Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency with a diagnosis of 'Other Arthritis' at the dates shown*

|        | As at May each year |      |      |      |      |
|--------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|
|        | 2006                | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| IB/SDA | 140                 | 140  | 130  | 120  | 100  |
| ESA    | n/a                 | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  | 10   |

#### Notes:

- Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
- Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
- 'Osteoarthritis' diagnosis is included within the category of 'Other Arthritis'.
- Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
- ESA figures by diagnosis are only available from February 2010.
- Prior to May 2010 the Westminster parliamentary constituencies for 2005 have been used.

#### Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

*Disability living allowance (DLA) recipients in Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency with a diagnosis of 'Arthritis' at the dates shown*

|     | As at May each year |       |       |       |       |
|-----|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|     | 2006                | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  |
| DLA | 1,200               | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 |

#### Notes:

- DLA figures are from 5% sample data uprated to 100% proportions. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
- The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provides some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total, by the application of a single rating factor therefore subtotals based on uprated 5% data may differ from 100% data because of sampling variation in the 5% sample.
- Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
- 'Osteoarthritis' diagnosis is included within the category of 'Arthritis'.
- A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability.
- Prior to May 2010 the Westminster parliamentary constituencies for 2005 have been used.

#### Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

#### Telephone Services

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the average length of a call, including the time spent on hold, to his Department's 0800 2888 777 number for contacting Atos Healthcare in relation to work capability assessments. [37870]

**Chris Grayling:** Atos Healthcare has confirmed that the current average call length including hold is two minutes 49 seconds. The timing is within agreed contract standard but work is ongoing to help Atos improve upon this.

#### Work Capability Assessment

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average amount paid to approved healthcare professionals for carrying out the medical services element of the work capability assessment. [37866]

**Chris Grayling:** Information relating to the payments paid to approved health care professionals for delivery of the medical services element of the work capability assessment is commercially sensitive and release of the information would prejudice the interests of Atos Healthcare and the Department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's document ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment, page 17, what estimate he has made of the average time which elapses between a customer's initial work capability assessment and a further assessment; and how many customers have been required to undergo more than one work capability assessment since its introduction. [37871]

**Chris Grayling:** Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. A key factor in determining eligibility for ESA is the work capability assessment (WCA). The WCA is carried out by health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare.

Following the initial WCA, those who are placed on ESA are given a provisional date for reassessment via a further WCA. The timing of this is determined by the nature of their health condition(s).

The average time between the initial WCA and the first repeat WCA is just under 10 months. This is based on data from 66,300 ESA claims, starting between October 2008 and May 2010. These only include people who have had two or more completed WCAs relating to the same ESA claim.

The above data come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare. The data have been rounded to the nearest 100.

**Tom Grentrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 6 of ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment, how many healthcare professionals provisionally approved at stage 3 have subsequently been removed from the training process.

[37872]

**Chris Grayling:** Seven health care professionals who completed stages one and two of training failed to receive full approval in 2010.

**Tom Grentrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 6 of ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment, by what criteria the satisfactory standard for the purpose of the stage 2 written assessment of medical knowledge is determined.

[37873]

**Chris Grayling:** Stage 2 of the ESA approval process is a multiple choice examination. The pass mark is 85%.

**Tom Grentrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 6 of ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment, what criteria are used to determine whether an approved healthcare professional continues to satisfy the required quality standards.

[37874]

**Chris Grayling:** Atos Healthcare has an audit programme for all health care professionals developed in conjunction with and monitored by the DWP. This consists of a nationally statistically significant programme of random audit supported by a rolling programme of individual audit and where appropriate, individual targeted audit. In addition, the number of cases that are returned by decision makers for rework are monitored for each individual health care professional.

**Tom Grentrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's document ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment, page 15, what medical training is provided to a decision maker to allow him or her to consider any evidence of a significant change in the customer's medical condition in the light of the ending of the requirement for the customer's doctor to issue any further medical certificates following the completion of a work capability assessment.

[37875]

**Chris Grayling:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question, with reference to his Department's document ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment page 15, what medical training is provided to a decision maker to allow him or her to consider any evidence of a significant change in the customer's medical condition in the light of the ending of the requirement for the customer's doctor to issue any further medical certificates following the completion of a work capability assessment. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Decision makers do not receive formal medical training. The role of a decision maker is to apply the law, on the balance of probabilities, based on the available evidence. Where evidence of a change in the customer's medical condition is received, the decision maker must consider whether this change could lead to a change in the award of ESA. Where the nature of the change means that the effect on the award is not clear, advice can be sought from Health Care Professionals employed by ATOS Healthcare. These Health Care Professionals provide decision makers with expert advice on medical questions. Decision makers are provided with detailed guidance on the nature of the advice that can be provided and when and how to seek such advice.

**Tom Grentrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 6 of ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment, how many approved healthcare professionals were withdrawn from the work capability assessment process for failing to continue to satisfy the required quality standards in the latest period for which figures are available.

[37876]

**Chris Grayling:** One healthcare professional had their approval to complete ESA assessments revoked because they failed to continue to satisfy the required quality standards in 2010.

**Tom Grentrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's document ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment, page 5, what estimate he has made of the average length of time an approved healthcare professional spends completing stage 1—the prescribed training course.

[37879]

**Chris Grayling:** Stage one of ESA training consists of two elements:

1. Pre-course reading—the time taken is dependent on the individual healthcare professional
2. A programme of face to face trainer led training which takes:

- 6 days for new entrant doctors
- 15 days for new entrant nurses
- 20 days for new entrant physiotherapists.

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on his Department's review of the work capability assessment published in March 2010 from (a) the Social Security Advisory Committee, (b) charities and (c) other organisations; what the content was of such representations; what plans he has to implement the findings of the review; and what the relationship is between such plans and his plans for implementation of the findings of the Harrington Review.

[39324]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department-led Review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) was published on 29 March 2010. It proposed a number of changes to the WCA, including expanding the Support Group for claimants with severe disability due to a mental health condition and making greater provision for individuals awaiting or between courses of chemotherapy.

Following discussions with the Department, the Social Security Advisory Committee consulted with a wide range of disability organisations on the changes and issued a report on 14 October 2010. The Department has considered the Committee's report and will publish its response shortly.

We will implement the changes proposed by the Department-led Review in Spring 2011, ensuring that they are in place as we start to re-assess individuals currently in receipt of incapacity benefits.

The Department-led Review is part of an ongoing process of improvement to the WCA. Taken together with the improvements we are making following Professor Harrington's Independent Review these changes represent important and ongoing progress in creating a fairer and more accurate assessment.

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will postpone the introduction of the new work capability assessment to enable arrangements to take full account of the recommendations of Professor Malcolm Harrington's review that he has accepted. [38728]

**Chris Grayling:** We believe that the principles of the work capability assessment (WCA) are right, but that the system which we inherited contained some flaws that risked undermining its effectiveness. We have therefore moved swiftly to put those right.

We welcome the first independent review of the WCA, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. This is a thorough review that has reviewed a substantial amount of evidence. As a result, Professor Harrington has come forward with a wide range of far reaching and challenging proposals which the Government fully support.

We are committed to taking forward the review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer and more effective. The Government response to Professor Harrington's review sets out how and when we will implement the recommendations of the review, almost all of which will be in place in time for the national roll-out of the incapacity benefits reassessment programme.

#### Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people whose work capability assessment initially found them fit for work had their assessments overturned upon appeal and were found unfit for work in the latest period for which figures are available. [38597]

**Chris Grayling:** I refer the hon. Member for North East Derbyshire to the written answer I gave her on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 902W.

#### Work Capability Assessment: Atos

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether (a) his Department and (b) Atos Healthcare provide any incentives to find claimants fit for work. [38596]

**Chris Grayling:** The medical services agreement between Atos Healthcare and the Department for Work and Pensions does not include any provisions either from the Department or from Atos Healthcare to incentivise health care professionals to find claimants undergoing the WCA fit for work, and nor would we wish to do so.

It should be noted, however that all decisions on benefit entitlement are made by DWP decision makers and not by Atos Healthcare professionals. Entitlement is determined by the Department's decision makers and is based on all available evidence, including that provided by the claimant. Decision makers are rightly impartial and also not incentivised to find claimants undergoing the WCA fit for work.

#### HOME DEPARTMENT

##### Immigration Controls

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of persons who have been in the UK in breach of immigration controls for a period exceeding (a) one year, (b) two years, (c) three years, (d) four years, (e) five years, (f) six years, (g) seven years, (h) eight years, (i) nine years and (j) 10 years. [38905]

**Damian Green:** It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of people currently in the UK in breach of immigration controls, as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally.

Illegal immigration puts huge pressure on the public purse at a time when the country can least afford it. Together with the police and the Serious Organised Crime Agency the UK Border Agency will continue to make life as difficult as possible for those who cheat the immigration system.

##### Asylum

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants who have entered the UK illegally claimed asylum following detection in each year for which figures are available; how many of those were granted asylum; how many of those were refused permission to remain in the UK and asked to leave the UK; and how many left the UK in each year. [38911]

**Damian Green:** In answering this question we have interpreted illegal immigrants as individuals who have been served papers as immigration offenders, prior to claiming asylum.

The information requested is shown in the following table:



|                                                    | 2008   | 2009   | 2010  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Claimed asylum following detection <sup>1, 2</sup> | 16,998 | 13,356 | 9,827 |
| Granted <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>                         | 4,528  | 3,117  | 2,224 |
| Refused <sup>1, 2, 4</sup>                         | 9,583  | 7,612  | 5,784 |
| Other <sup>1, 2, 5</sup>                           | 2,887  | 2,627  | 1,819 |
| Total Removed <sup>1, 2</sup>                      | 3,229  | 2,529  | 1,536 |

<sup>1</sup> Data are for individuals served papers as immigration offenders, who subsequently claimed asylum in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Data relates to the main applicants only.

<sup>3</sup> Data relates to the number granted asylum (including Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave) at first decision.

<sup>4</sup> Data relates to the number refused asylum at first decision.

<sup>5</sup> Data relates to Other outcomes (e.g. as yet unconcluded cases, withdrawn by applicant, withdrawn absconder, applicant deceased, applicant left UK, Third Country action accepted.)

#### Notes:

1. All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change.

2. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

### Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning in domestic premises of each type of tenure there were per 100,000 households in each of the last 15 years. [38594]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking:

How many deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning in domestic premises of each type of tenure there were per 100,000 households in each of the last 15 years. [38594]

The table provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of carbon monoxide was the cause of death by local authority (Table 2), for England and Wales, from 1995 to 2009 (the latest year available). A copy of Table 2 has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Mortality statistics are produced from information recorded at death registration. Although the place of usual residence of the deceased and the place of death are recorded, tenancy arrangements are not, so it is not possible to provide figures by domestic premises of each type of tenure.

### Deportation: Illegal Immigrants

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were removed in (a) October, (b) November and (c) December 2010. [38986]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html)

Quarter 4 2010 and annual 2010 figures will be published on 24 February 2011.

### Drugs: Bolivia

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 344W, on Bolivia: drugs, whether the Bolivian Government's amendment to the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs sought to remove the ban on coca leaf chewing rather than to remove coca leaf as an illicit drug. [38887]

**James Brokenshire** [holding answer 7 February 2011]: The Government believe that to remove the ban on coca leaf chewing would legitimise coca production and, therefore, its effect would be to remove coca leaf as an illicit drug.

### Electronic Tagging

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the JTrack programme in tracking offenders; and if she will make a statement. [38814]

**James Brokenshire:** JTrack is a national web-based IT system to enable all 43 police forces in England and Wales and local partner agencies to monitor, track and review their locally identified prolific and other priority offenders across the Criminal Justice System.

The system is funded centrally by the Home Office and is managed by the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA). We are also working with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to ensure that the system continues to meet local needs particularly in the context of the development of local Integrated Offender Management (IOM) approaches.

The integrity, confidentiality and availability of JTrack has been fully tested through an accredited IT healthcheck. There has been no national assessment of the effectiveness of the system in tracking offenders as data are managed locally.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles screened by port operators or authorities in other EU member states were later found in the UK to have been used to transport illegal immigrants into the UK in each year for which figures are available. [38908]

**Damian Green:** In conjunction with the Port Authority, Calais Chamber of Commerce, (CCC) and our contractors the UK Border Agency checks UK bound vehicles by means of a multi-layered regime, utilising a combination of detection technologies in order to screen 100% of vehicles for the presence of clandestines.

The Calais Chamber of Commerce supply statistical information to the UK Border Agency on the number of vehicles searched, however all of the information is supplied and owned by them and is commercial in confidence.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many freight vehicles were searched by the UK Border Agency for the purpose of detecting persons attempting to enter the UK illegally in each year for which figures are available. [38910]

**Damian Green:** At the juxtaposed controls of Calais, Coquelles, Dunkirk and Boulogne the UK Border Agency screened in excess of 1.7 million vehicles throughout 2006, over 1.8 million in 2007, in excess of 1.7 million in 2008, and over 1.5 million in both 2009 and 2010.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were detected entering the UK at each port in each year for which figures are available; and how each such case was disposed of. [38914]

**Damian Green:** Between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2010, 31,139 clandestine entrants were detected by border force officers at the UK border.

An annual breakdown is provided in the following table.

|       | <i>Number of clandestine entrants detected at UK Border</i> |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2008  | 13,106                                                      |
| 2009  | 13,129                                                      |
| 2010  | 4,904                                                       |
| Total | 31,139                                                      |

These figures are based on locally collated management information. They are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data are provisional and subject to change. We have not included inland detections of clandestine entrants because these entrants have by definition evaded the UK border control, nor detections made by overseas authorities at the juxtaposed controls in France and Belgium.

To provide the outcomes or conclusions of individual cases would mean examining individual case records at disproportionate cost.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were detected in each (a) local authority area, (b) county and (c) region in each year for which figures are available. [38915]

**Damian Green:** The records kept by the UK Border Agency regarding the arrest of illegal immigrants breaks down the figures by region. The data, for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to December), are in the following table.

It is not possible to disaggregate these figures by local authority and county without incurring a disproportionate cost, as to determine this would require the manual examination of each record, to ensure their accuracy.

The figures provided are sourced from management information tools; they are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols and are subject to change.

| <i>Region</i>         | <i>April 2009 to March 2010</i> | <i>April 2010 to December 2010</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| London and South East | 3,287                           | 2,541                              | 5,828        |
| Midlands and East     | 1,411                           | 950                                | 2,361        |

| <i>Region</i>                    | <i>April 2009 to March 2010</i> | <i>April 2010 to December 2010</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| North East, Yorkshire and Humber | 985                             | 655                                | 1,640        |
| North West                       | 579                             | 589                                | 1,168        |
| Scotland and Northern Ireland    | 456                             | 477                                | 933          |
| Wales and South West             | 789                             | 528                                | 1,317        |
| Total                            | 7,507                           | 5,741                              | 13,248       |

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of people who are in the UK beyond the limit of their visa entitlement. [38917]

**Damian Green:** It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of overstayers in the UK as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally.

#### Illegal Immigrants: Asylum

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of processing a case involving (a) an illegal immigrant and (b) an asylum seeker whose application for asylum is refused was in each year for which figures are available. [38916]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency has not previously collected these data, but since I became Minister for Immigration, I have asked the agency to show a greater focus on productivity and these, or similar, data will be more readily available in the future.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) illegal immigrants and (b) asylum seekers whose application for asylum was refused have been allowed to remain in the UK by (i) ministerial or other administrative decision, (ii) as a consequence of an appeal to a tribunal and (iii) as a result of an appeal through the courts made predominantly, entirely or partly on human rights grounds. [38918]

**Damian Green:** We have interpreted illegal immigrants to mean individuals who have been served papers as immigration offenders, and refused asylum seekers to mean failed asylum seekers. Refused individuals who have been granted leave to remain by the Government, has been interpreted as individuals granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave.

The information requested is shown in the following table.

|                                                     | <i>2008</i> | <i>2009</i> | <i>2010</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Immigration offenders served papers <sup>1, 3</sup> | 37,296      | 34,738      | 20,934      |
| Granted HP/DL <sup>1, 3, 4</sup>                    | 2,156       | 1,754       | 705         |
| Appeal allowed <sup>1, 3, 5</sup>                   | 268         | 226         | 106         |
| HR appeal allowed <sup>1, 3, 6</sup>                | 164         | 166         | 93          |
| Failed asylum seekers <sup>2, 3</sup>               | 15,737      | 15,941      | 11,116      |

|                                      | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Granted HP/DL <sup>2, 3, 4</sup>     | 2,307 | 2,151 | 1,032 |
| Appeal allowed <sup>2, 3, 5</sup>    | 2,825 | 3,616 | 1,719 |
| HR appeal allowed <sup>2, 3, 6</sup> | 2,410 | 3,116 | 1,547 |

<sup>1</sup> Data are for individuals served papers as immigration offenders, in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Data are for individuals refused asylum based on initial decision, in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Data relate to main applicants only.

<sup>4</sup> Data relate to individuals refused, but allowed permission to remain in the UK by the Government on the grounds of humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) at initial decision. HP and DL replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.

<sup>5</sup> Data relate to individuals who were granted leave following a successful appeal.

<sup>6</sup> Data relate to individuals who were granted leave following a successful appeal on human rights grounds. This is a subset of appeal allowed data.

*Note:*

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

### Immigration Controls

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the operation of border controls (a) in the UK and (b) elsewhere in each of the last 30 years. [38912]

**Damian Green:** Detailed financial records are only held for the last six years. The following information reflects the costs of the UK border agency border force and its antecedents.

| Border force resource cost |         |         | £ million |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
|                            | Total   | UK      | Europe    |
| 2009-10                    | 466.069 | 398.059 | 68.010    |
| 2008-09                    | 229.765 | 173.104 | 56.661    |
| 2007-08                    | 216.514 | 163.414 | 53.100    |
| 2006-07                    | 189.953 | 143.963 | 45.990    |
| 2005-06                    | 175.697 | —       | —         |
| 2004-05                    | 150.482 | —       | —         |

### Immigration: Appeals

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the length of time was of the 20 longest-running immigration appeals cases concerning a single individual. [38906]

**Damian Green:** The Home Department does not record statistics on the individual time scales of all appeals.

The longest-running immigration appeals cases are cases that proceed through the court system to the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. There are no time limits for cases to be heard or judgments to be handed down at these courts. The length of time an appeal takes may be extended further should it be referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union. For the first two quarters of 2010-11 70,300 immigration appeals were received by the Tribunal Service and during the same period 73 appeals proceeded to the Court of Appeal, while four were determined at the Supreme Court.

### Offences against Children: Care Homes

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of cases involving the sexual grooming of girls from children's homes; and if she will make a statement. [38333]

**James Brokenshire:** No specific assessment has yet been carried out of cases of this kind. However, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre have recently begun to conduct a thematic assessment of the nature and scale of child sexual exploitation in the UK as a whole. The results of the study will be published in due course.

### LEADER OF THE HOUSE

#### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr MacNeil:** To ask the Leader of the House how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38962]

**Sir George Young:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The Deputy Leader and I share one assigned press officer, who is employed by Cabinet Office Communications Group and will be included in the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

### DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

#### Alternative Vote: Referendums

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what meetings he has had with members of the campaign team supporting a Yes vote in the proposed referendum on the alternative vote; and how many such meetings have taken place in premises owned by Government departments. [37606]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** For reasons of diary management and logistics I have had two meetings on official premises with representatives of the campaign team supporting a Yes vote in the proposed referendum on the Alternative Vote.

### EDUCATION

#### Children: Asthma

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on (a) the number of children reported to have



experienced an asthma attack at school in the last 12 months and (b) the number of such children who were hospitalised in consequence. [38716]

**Paul Burstow:** I have been asked to reply.

The hospital episode statistics show that there were 24,217 admissions to hospital of patients aged 0-14 suffering from asthma in the year ending March 2010. We do not know how many of these resulted from asthma attacks in schools, as we do not collect school-based information.

#### Children: Autism

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of levels of understanding of the requirements of young people with autism among the children's workforce. [25769]

**Sarah Teather:** We are committed to giving every child, and young person, the best possible start in life and recognise the importance of high quality teaching particularly for those with special educational needs (SEN). This is vital if they are to achieve their potential. We know that currently there are over 56,000 schoolchildren with an autistic spectrum disorder. I believe that local authorities are best placed to assess the skills and expertise of those who teach pupils with SEN and to develop their own plans to improve the quality of provision, working with schools and parents to ensure that the necessary expertise is in place in their area. We expect all local authorities to provide support for children with special educational needs and we will work with them to ensure that there is sufficient high-quality provision.

To support the understanding of the work force in relation to SEN we have published resources for use in initial teacher training and Continuing Professional Development through the Inclusion Development Programme. A specific resource focusing on supporting pupils with an autistic spectrum disorder is included.

In addition the Children's Workforce Development Council has been remitted to support those who work with disabled children and young people in mainstream and specialist settings. This includes determining what specialist skills, knowledge and behaviours are needed by people working with disabled children and young people.

We will be publishing a Green Paper which will consider how we can improve support for all children with special educational needs and disabilities, including those with autism.

#### Children's Centres

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the criteria for, and monitoring of, private and voluntary sector providers of children's centres. [33289]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department has not issued any guidance to local authorities on the criteria for, and monitoring of, private and voluntary sector providers of children's centres yet. One of the actions in the Departmental Easiness Plan, published in November

2010, is to work with local authorities to develop a plan to increase voluntary and community sector involvement with children's centres. We will be working with local authorities and other early years partners to co-produce this plan with them.

#### Departmental Domestic Visits

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what meetings, visits or other engagements relating to her Ministerial duties the Minister of State for Children and Families has attended since her appointment; what the date and time was of each such engagement; and who attended each such engagement. [31965]

**Sarah Teather:** I have had many meetings with individuals and organisations and have attended many official engagements relating to Government business as Minister of State for Children and Families. To provide the detailed information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many meetings, visits or other engagements relating to the Ministerial duties of the Minister of State for Children and Families have been cancelled since May 2010; with whom each such engagement was to be held; what the date was of each such engagement; and (a) when and (b) for what reasons each such engagement was cancelled. [31966]

**Sarah Teather:** Conflicting diary pressures and urgent parliamentary business often makes it necessary to cancel meetings, visits or official engagements at very short notice but the endeavour is to keep this to a minimum. The reasons for such cancellations are not recorded by the Department.

#### Education Maintenance Allowance: Wallasey

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the likely effect on students from poorer backgrounds in Wallasey constituency of the withdrawal of education maintenance allowance. [35605]

**Mr Gibb:** We are committed to making sure that young people from low income households can continue in education and training post-16. We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to participate in education.

#### Education: Finance

**Robert Ffello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many (a) further education colleges, (b) sixth form colleges and (c) school sixth forms will receive (i) an increase or (ii) a decrease in overall funding per 16-19 year old as a result of implementation of the funding settlement issued by the Young People's Learning Agency on 20 December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [35773]

**Mr Gibb** [holding answer 24 January 2011]: The 16-19 funding statement, published by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) on 20 December 2010, set out the Government's plans for 16-19 education and training for 2011/12. It set out the funding policy changes to be implemented in 2011/12 and stated there would be a system of transitional protection to smooth the implementation of changes year on year. For 2011/12 this will mean no provider facing a reduction in funding per student of more than 3%. The precise reduction or increase each provider will face will depend on its individual circumstances and the YPLA is currently working through those calculations. Allocations to all

schools and colleges for the 2011/12 academic year will be made by the end of March 2011.

#### Free School Meals: Kingswood

**Chris Skidmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in each ward in Kingswood constituency are eligible for free school meals. [35692]

**Mr Gibb:** The number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the following table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Maintained nursery<sup>1</sup>, maintained primary<sup>2</sup>, state-funded secondary<sup>2, 3</sup> and special schools<sup>4</sup>: School meal arrangements<sup>5</sup> As at January 2010 by each ward within Kingswood parliamentary constituency

|                       | Nursery <sup>1</sup> and primary <sup>2</sup> |                                                                                          |                                                                    | State-funded secondary <sup>2, 3</sup> |                                                                                          |                                                                    | Special <sup>4</sup>           |                                                                                          |                                                                    |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       | Number on roll <sup>5, 6</sup>                | Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals <sup>5, 6</sup> | Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals | Number on roll <sup>5, 6</sup>         | Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals <sup>5, 6</sup> | Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals | Number on roll <sup>5, 6</sup> | Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals <sup>5, 6</sup> | Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals |
| Bitton                | 363                                           | 55                                                                                       | 15.2                                                               | n/a                                    | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Emersons Green        | 957                                           | 57                                                                                       | 6.0                                                                | 1,177                                  | 83                                                                                       | 7.1                                                                | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Hanham                | 820                                           | 59                                                                                       | 7.2                                                                | 892                                    | 68                                                                                       | 7.6                                                                | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Kings Chase           | 586                                           | 94                                                                                       | 16.0                                                               | 884                                    | 114                                                                                      | 12.9                                                               | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Longwell Green        | 691                                           | 25                                                                                       | 3.6                                                                | n/a                                    | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Oldland Common        | 722                                           | 91                                                                                       | 12.6                                                               | 1,069                                  | 105                                                                                      | 9.8                                                                | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Parkwall              | 389                                           | 70                                                                                       | 18.0                                                               | 861                                    | 93                                                                                       | 10.8                                                               | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Rodway                | 965                                           | 165                                                                                      | 17.1                                                               | n/a                                    | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Siston                | n/a                                           | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                | n/a                                    | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                | 99                             | 13                                                                                       | 13.1                                                               |
| Woodstock             | 1,277                                         | 190                                                                                      | 14.9                                                               | 802                                    | 55                                                                                       | 6.9                                                                | n/a                            | n/a                                                                                      | n/a                                                                |
| Kingswood (all wards) | 6,770                                         | 806                                                                                      | 11.9                                                               | 5,685                                  | 518                                                                                      | 9.1                                                                | 99                             | 13                                                                                       | 13.1                                                               |

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type.

<sup>1</sup> There are no maintained nursery schools in Kingswood parliamentary constituency.

<sup>2</sup> Includes middle schools as deemed.

<sup>3</sup> Includes city technology colleges and academies.

<sup>4</sup> Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

<sup>5</sup> Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

<sup>6</sup> Pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 0 to 15, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged five to 15.

Source:

School Census

#### Further Education: Finance

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will take steps to ensure that identical courses provided by colleges and a school sixth forms receive the same level of funding per student; and if he will make a statement; [34512]

(2) what estimate he has made of the like-for-like funding difference between schools and colleges in each of the last three years; and what methodology his Department uses to calculate this figure. [34579]

**Mr Gibb:** The White Paper "The Importance of Teaching", published in November 2010, set out the Government's commitment to end the disparity in funding for 16-19 year olds so that by 2015 schools and colleges are funded at the same level as one another. We want to achieve this in a carefully managed way over time so as not to destabilise providers. To ensure this is the case we are limiting the reduction in the average funding per

student in 2011/12 to a maximum of 3% per student. The transitional protection will be removed over the spending review period.

In 2008 KPMG independently assessed the funding gap between school sixth forms and other providers at 5.6%. Since 2008 the gap has remained the same following the introduction of a consistent funding methodology between all types of providers. The methodology used by KPMG was to cost identical programmes for each provider type and then to assess the difference. The conclusion was that the gap was due to a 3% difference in funding rates and 2.6% paid to schools for teachers' pension payments. KPMG also stated that the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) was now a clearly identifiable grant for schools with sixth forms that was not available to FE and other providers. Including the TPG in the calculation widened the gap to 9.6%. Other factors such as differences in treatment for VAT were not considered to form part of the funding gap.

## GCSE: Science

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to increase access to and take up of triple science GCSEs in deprived areas. [38238]

**Mr Gibb** [holding answer 7 February 2011]: The recent Schools White Paper confirms that we will support schools to offer triple science. We shall shortly announce details of how this support will be focused on increasing take up in the most deprived areas.

We have already taken steps to increase access, such as encouraging schools to offer triple science by including it in the English Baccalaureate. We are also taking steps to increase the number and quality of science teachers.

## Higher Education: Arts

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he received from representatives of the crafts sector prior to reaching his decision to reduce higher education funding for the tuition of arts and humanities. [39101]

**Mr Willetts:** I have been asked to reply.

In developing our proposals for reform of higher education funding we have received a number of representations from individuals and institutions, including in the craft sector. The reforms will shift the balance of public funds for teaching from direct grant to institutions to funding that follows the informed choices made by individual students. This will provide strong incentives for institutions to focus on providing high quality teaching as efficiently as possible. However, we do not expect the overall income of the sector to reduce. Putting together the remaining funding for recurrent grant for teaching and research and the Government's loans outlay to institutions on the upfront costs of graduate contributions, the aggregate effect could be that the total investment by this Department in institutions in England would rise in cash terms from around £9 billion in 2010-11 to around £10 billion in 2014-15 while broadly maintaining existing participation.

## Schools: Greater London

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in (a) West Ham constituency, (b) the London borough of Newham and (c) London have had a reduction in the funding provided for extended out-of-hours provision in 2010-11. [26271]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department does not collect data on the funding devolved by local authorities to individual schools for extended out-of-hours provision. How funding is distributed to individual schools is a matter for local determination. Nationally, the revenue funding provided to local authorities through the 2010-11 Standards Fund grant for the sustainability and disadvantage elements of extended services has not been reduced. From April 2011 onwards, funding for extended services currently provided to local authorities and schools through the Standards Fund will form part of the baseline for the Dedicated Schools Grant. Schools, including academies and free schools, will have freedom and flexibility to spend their budgets to support their pupils in the ways they judge best.

## Special Educational Needs

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what meetings his Department has had with (a) deaf children, (b) parents of deaf children and (c) organisations representing deaf children on the special educational needs Green Paper since his appointment. [21826]

**Sarah Teather:** The Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities is being informed through a series of discussions with those representing a wide range of interests in this area, including the National Deaf Children's Society and the Special Educational Consortium, whose membership includes organisations representing deaf children. In addition, an open call for views was held, receiving over 1,800 responses, 40% of which were from parents, but also from voluntary organisations, including those representing deaf children.

The Department will continue to collaborate with a wide range of individuals and groups in developing the Green Paper, and during the consultation period following its publication. This will include engagement with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish his Green Paper on special educational needs. [32143]

**Sarah Teather:** I am publishing a Green Paper to look at the wide range of issues concerning provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities. To inform this important work, I issued a call for views and have met parents, teachers, local authorities, charities and other groups. The call for views attracted over 1,800 responses from a wide range of people and organisations. In order to give those views the most careful consideration I will be publishing the Green Paper in March 2011.

## Students: Loans

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to offer student loans to cover the costs of further education fees. [38793]

**Mr Hayes:** "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" published in November 2010 set out our plans to introduce Government backed further education fee loans from 2013/14. The loans will be available for those aged 24 and over to undertake qualifications at Level 3 and above. The loans will be repaid on an income contingent basis in line with the approach for higher education fee loans which includes a repayment threshold of £21,000 and a write off after 30 years for any outstanding loan balance.

We are engaging with the representative bodies for colleges, training organisations and other providers to discuss implementation plans for FE fee loans. This includes the establishment of a stakeholder reference group to help identify the particular delivery arrangements appropriate for the FE and Skills sector.



## Teachers: Intimidation

**Fiona Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to protect teachers from false allegations made by pupils. [38237]

**Mr Gibb** [holding answer 7 February 2011]: The Education Bill introduces reporting restrictions to prevent the publication of information that would identify teachers when allegations are made by or on behalf of a pupil until they are charged with a criminal offence. We will also revise guidance to highlight the fundamental importance of eradicating unnecessary delays in investigations, clarify that suspending teachers should never be an automatic response and emphasising the support that teachers are entitled to expect when facing such action.

## Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question (a) 31966 and (b) 31965, on the activities of the Minister of State for Children and Families, tabled on 15 December 2010. [39458]

**Sarah Teather:** I responded to the hon. Member's questions today.

## Young People: Unemployment

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in Richmond Park constituency were not in education, employment or training on the most recent date for which figures are available. [36122]

**Mr Gibb:** Estimates of participation in education, training and employment for young people aged 16-18 are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml>

This publication also contains additional tables that show the number and proportion of young people who participate in education and work based educational training in each local authority. However, these estimates only cover 16 and 17-year-olds, and do not include information on young people's employment.

Connexions Services collect information on the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in each local authority area in England. These are published annually on the DFE website and the latest data for the end of 2009 are in the following table.

This data estimate that at the end of 2009, 170 (3.4%) 16 to 18-year-olds were not in education, employment or training in Kingston-upon-Thames and 120 (3.5%) in Richmond-upon-Thames local authorities. The figures cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET: 2009<sup>1, 5</sup>

|                        | 16 to 18-year-olds known to Connexions <sup>2</sup> | 16 to 18-year-olds NEET <sup>3, 4</sup> |            | Percentage 16 to 18-year-olds whose current activity is not known |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        |                                                     | Estimated number                        | Percentage |                                                                   |
| <i>South East</i>      | 251,766                                             | 14,600                                  | 5.8        | 5.1                                                               |
| Bracknell Forest       | 2,840                                               | 190                                     | 6.8        | 3.0                                                               |
| Brighton and Hove      | 7,284                                               | 640                                     | 8.8        | 4.0                                                               |
| Buckinghamshire        | 14,157                                              | 650                                     | 4.6        | 1.3                                                               |
| East Sussex            | 15,117                                              | 1,100                                   | 7.3        | 4.5                                                               |
| Hampshire              | 41,958                                              | 2,390                                   | 5.7        | 10.8                                                              |
| Isle of Wight          | 4,191                                               | 290                                     | 6.9        | 18.7                                                              |
| Kent                   | 49,747                                              | 2,440                                   | 4.9        | 3.1                                                               |
| Medway                 | 10,605                                              | 620                                     | 5.8        | 5.9                                                               |
| Milton Keynes          | 8,027                                               | 470                                     | 5.8        | 2.9                                                               |
| Oxfordshire            | 17,638                                              | 1,150                                   | 6.5        | 3.1                                                               |
| Portsmouth             | 4,201                                               | 470                                     | 11.1       | 10.5                                                              |
| Reading                | 4,461                                               | 290                                     | 6.5        | 2.7                                                               |
| Slough                 | 4,309                                               | 260                                     | 6.0        | 3.2                                                               |
| Southampton            | 6,359                                               | 620                                     | 9.7        | 7.5                                                               |
| Surrey                 | 28,061                                              | 1,150                                   | 4.1        | 4.4                                                               |
| West Berkshire         | 4,838                                               | 250                                     | 5.2        | 2.6                                                               |
| West Sussex            | 20,911                                              | 1,230                                   | 5.9        | 3.5                                                               |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 3,700                                               | 200                                     | 5.5        | 2.5                                                               |
| Wokingham              | 3,361                                               | 210                                     | 6.3        | 2.6                                                               |
| <i>London</i>          | 204,518                                             | 10,840                                  | 5.3        | 4.4                                                               |
| Barking and Dagenham   | 6,913                                               | 550                                     | 7.9        | 6.2                                                               |
| Barnet                 | 10,068                                              | 380                                     | 3.8        | 4.9                                                               |
| Bexley                 | 6,520                                               | 330                                     | 5.0        | 1.8                                                               |
| Brent                  | 6,889                                               | 320                                     | 4.6        | 4.9                                                               |
| Bromley                | 10,636                                              | 450                                     | 4.2        | 3.8                                                               |
| Camden                 | 5,377                                               | 300                                     | 5.5        | 3.8                                                               |
| City of London         | 632                                                 | —                                       | 0.6        | 0.5                                                               |

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET: 2009<sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>

|                        | 16 to 18-year-olds known to Connexions <sup>2</sup> | 16 to 18-year-olds NEET <sup>3</sup> , <sup>4</sup> |            | Percentage 16 to 18-year-olds whose current activity is not known |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        |                                                     | Estimated number                                    | Percentage |                                                                   |
| Croydon                | 9,838                                               | 680                                                 | 6.9        | 6.4                                                               |
| Ealing                 | 6,371                                               | 310                                                 | 4.9        | 3.5                                                               |
| Enfield                | 8,709                                               | 530                                                 | 6.1        | 9.2                                                               |
| Greenwich              | 6,169                                               | 410                                                 | 6.6        | 4.3                                                               |
| Hackney                | 4,218                                               | 310                                                 | 7.4        | 6.3                                                               |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3,414                                               | 190                                                 | 5.6        | 4.4                                                               |
| Haringey               | 4,863                                               | 330                                                 | 6.8        | 5.0                                                               |
| Harrow                 | 6,152                                               | 180                                                 | 2.9        | 2.6                                                               |
| Havering               | 8,853                                               | 420                                                 | 4.7        | 3.6                                                               |
| Hillingdon             | 8,434                                               | 460                                                 | 5.4        | 2.3                                                               |
| Hounslow               | 6,603                                               | 310                                                 | 4.7        | 3.6                                                               |
| Islington              | 5,792                                               | 420                                                 | 7.3        | 6.9                                                               |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 2,440                                               | 120                                                 | 5.0        | 5.0                                                               |
| Kingston               | 4,871                                               | 170                                                 | 3.4        | 2.8                                                               |
| Lambeth                | 4,161                                               | 320                                                 | 7.6        | 6.0                                                               |
| Lewisham               | 8,661                                               | 420                                                 | 4.9        | 3.1                                                               |
| Merton                 | 2,691                                               | 150                                                 | 5.6        | 4.9                                                               |
| Newham                 | 8,039                                               | 540                                                 | 6.7        | 5.7                                                               |
| Redbridge              | 8,834                                               | 360                                                 | 4.1        | 1.3                                                               |
| Richmond               | 3,346                                               | 120                                                 | 3.5        | 2.8                                                               |
| Southwark              | 3,569                                               | 310                                                 | 8.7        | 5.0                                                               |
| Sutton                 | 6,481                                               | 290                                                 | 4.4        | 3.6                                                               |
| Tower Hamlets          | 5,537                                               | 330                                                 | 6.0        | 3.6                                                               |
| Waltham Forest         | 8,113                                               | 370                                                 | 4.5        | 3.2                                                               |
| Wandsworth             | 7,006                                               | 300                                                 | 4.3        | 5.7                                                               |
| Westminster            | 4,318                                               | 200                                                 | 4.6        | 7.0                                                               |
| <i>East of England</i> | 182,920                                             | 10,790                                              | 5.9        | 3.7                                                               |
| Bedford borough        | 5,714                                               | 320                                                 | 5.6        | 3.8                                                               |
| Cambridgeshire         | 17,316                                              | 940                                                 | 5.4        | 2.9                                                               |
| Central Bedfordshire   | 6,686                                               | 420                                                 | 6.3        | 6.1                                                               |
| Essex                  | 42,988                                              | 2,970                                               | 6.9        | 3.7                                                               |
| Hertfordshire          | 36,600                                              | 1,320                                               | 3.6        | 3.0                                                               |
| Luton                  | 6,414                                               | 420                                                 | 6.5        | 2.2                                                               |
| Norfolk                | 27,110                                              | 1,460                                               | 5.4        | 4.8                                                               |
| Peterborough           | 6,124                                               | 540                                                 | 8.8        | 2.3                                                               |
| Southend               | 8,243                                               | 460                                                 | 5.6        | 4.6                                                               |
| Suffolk                | 20,655                                              | 1,530                                               | 7.4        | 3.8                                                               |
| Thurrock               | 5,069                                               | 330                                                 | 6.6        | 5.8                                                               |
| <i>South West</i>      | 157,482                                             | 8,820                                               | 5.6        | 2.4                                                               |
| Bath and NE Somerset   | 5,312                                               | 220                                                 | 4.2        | 2.2                                                               |
| Bournemouth            | 4,639                                               | 310                                                 | 6.7        | 0.7                                                               |
| Bristol                | 11,676                                              | 900                                                 | 7.7        | 4.1                                                               |
| Cornwall               | 17,076                                              | 970                                                 | 5.7        | 0.8                                                               |
| Devon                  | 20,804                                              | 1,190                                               | 5.7        | 0.8                                                               |
| Dorset                 | 11,036                                              | 740                                                 | 6.7        | 1.9                                                               |
| Gloucestershire        | 18,556                                              | 740                                                 | 4.0        | 4.2                                                               |
| Isles of Scilly        | —                                                   | —                                                   | —          | —                                                                 |
| North Somerset         | 5,462                                               | 210                                                 | 3.9        | 1.4                                                               |
| Plymouth               | 9,258                                               | 620                                                 | 6.7        | 0.8                                                               |
| Poole                  | 4,625                                               | 250                                                 | 5.5        | 2.8                                                               |
| Somerset               | 15,963                                              | 700                                                 | 4.4        | 5.3                                                               |
| South Gloucestershire  | 8,779                                               | 390                                                 | 4.4        | 2.4                                                               |
| Swindon                | 6,587                                               | 540                                                 | 8.2        | 3.2                                                               |
| Torbay                 | 5,297                                               | 190                                                 | 3.6        | 0.7                                                               |
| Wiltshire              | 12,411                                              | 760                                                 | 6.1        | 2.5                                                               |
| <i>West Midlands</i>   | 180,710                                             | 11,930                                              | 6.6        | 3.9                                                               |

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET: 2009<sup>1, 5</sup>

|                                 | 16 to 18-year-olds known to Connexions <sup>2</sup> | 16 to 18-year-olds NEET <sup>3, 4</sup> |            | Percentage 16 to 18-year-olds whose current activity is not known |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 |                                                     | Estimated number                        | Percentage |                                                                   |
| Birmingham                      | 34,897                                              | 2,690                                   | 7.7        | 3.2                                                               |
| Coventry                        | 10,743                                              | 740                                     | 6.9        | 2.8                                                               |
| Dudley                          | 13,081                                              | 640                                     | 4.9        | 4.6                                                               |
| Herefordshire                   | 5,263                                               | 310                                     | 5.9        | 3.3                                                               |
| Sandwell                        | 6,817                                               | 700                                     | 10.2       | 5.4                                                               |
| Shropshire                      | 7,689                                               | 360                                     | 4.7        | 3.2                                                               |
| Solihull                        | 9,178                                               | 560                                     | 6.1        | 3.6                                                               |
| Staffordshire                   | 28,782                                              | 1,470                                   | 5.1        | 3.7                                                               |
| Stoke on Trent                  | 8,055                                               | 790                                     | 9.8        | 5.6                                                               |
| Telford and Wrekin              | 5,630                                               | 530                                     | 9.4        | 9.8                                                               |
| Walsall                         | 9,704                                               | 790                                     | 8.1        | 4.7                                                               |
| Warwickshire                    | 16,711                                              | 940                                     | 5.6        | 2.6                                                               |
| Wolverhampton                   | 8,067                                               | 610                                     | 7.6        | 6.2                                                               |
| Worcestershire                  | 16,093                                              | 890                                     | 5.5        | 3.1                                                               |
| <i>East Midlands</i>            | 145,443                                             | 8,000                                   | 5.5        | 3.8                                                               |
| Derby city                      | 9,385                                               | 670                                     | 7.1        | 5.0                                                               |
| Derbyshire                      | 21,117                                              | 1,580                                   | 7.5        | 3.8                                                               |
| Leicester city                  | 11,717                                              | 890                                     | 7.6        | 4.9                                                               |
| Leicestershire county           | 20,185                                              | 790                                     | 3.9        | 4.0                                                               |
| Lincolnshire                    | 24,015                                              | 1,150                                   | 4.8        | 3.4                                                               |
| Northamptonshire                | 21,894                                              | 1,140                                   | 5.2        | 2.1                                                               |
| Nottingham                      | 12,355                                              | 670                                     | 5.4        | 4.8                                                               |
| Nottinghamshire                 | 24,218                                              | 1,140                                   | 4.7        | 4.3                                                               |
| Rutland                         | 557                                                 | 10                                      | 1.9        | 9.0                                                               |
| <i>Yorkshire and the Humber</i> | 172,423                                             | 13,450                                  | 7.8        | 5.2                                                               |
| Barnsley                        | 7,466                                               | 590                                     | 7.9        | 6.2                                                               |
| Bradford                        | 15,847                                              | 1,360                                   | 8.6        | 4.2                                                               |
| Calderdale                      | 6,431                                               | 560                                     | 8.7        | 4.2                                                               |
| Doncaster                       | 10,460                                              | 780                                     | 7.5        | 4.6                                                               |
| East Riding                     | 9,061                                               | 510                                     | 5.6        | 8.3                                                               |
| Kingston upon Hull              | 10,828                                              | 1,030                                   | 9.5        | 5.6                                                               |
| Kirklees                        | 14,403                                              | 1,350                                   | 9.4        | 4.7                                                               |
| Leeds                           | 24,237                                              | 1,990                                   | 8.2        | 10.9                                                              |
| North East Lincolnshire         | 7,022                                               | 440                                     | 6.3        | 3.7                                                               |
| North Lincolnshire              | 6,086                                               | 560                                     | 9.2        | 4.9                                                               |
| North Yorkshire                 | 15,537                                              | 680                                     | 4.4        | 1.3                                                               |
| Rotherham                       | 10,871                                              | 860                                     | 7.9        | 4.9                                                               |
| Sheffield                       | 15,967                                              | 1,360                                   | 8.5        | 3.7                                                               |
| Wakefield                       | 11,465                                              | 1,070                                   | 9.3        | 3.9                                                               |
| York                            | 6,740                                               | 290                                     | 4.3        | 1.9                                                               |
| <i>North West</i>               | 241,083                                             | 17,600                                  | 7.3        | 3.0                                                               |
| Blackburn-Darwen                | 6,652                                               | 450                                     | 6.7        | 2.5                                                               |
| Blackpool                       | 7,506                                               | 500                                     | 6.7        | 2.6                                                               |
| Bolton                          | 8,496                                               | 900                                     | 10.6       | 5.3                                                               |
| Bury                            | 8,738                                               | 490                                     | 5.6        | 2.6                                                               |
| Cheshire East                   | 11,274                                              | 630                                     | 5.6        | 1.7                                                               |
| Cheshire West and Chester       | 11,249                                              | 610                                     | 5.4        | 2.5                                                               |
| Cumbria                         | 16,603                                              | 750                                     | 4.5        | 2.5                                                               |
| Halton                          | 3,961                                               | 400                                     | 10.2       | 2.6                                                               |
| Knowsley                        | 4,127                                               | 440                                     | 10.6       | 2.5                                                               |
| Lancashire county               | 35,931                                              | 2,550                                   | 7.1        | 2.9                                                               |
| Liverpool                       | 15,067                                              | 1,310                                   | 8.7        | 3.6                                                               |
| Manchester                      | 14,981                                              | 1,420                                   | 9.5        | 3.1                                                               |
| Oldham                          | 8,947                                               | 640                                     | 7.2        | 3.5                                                               |
| Rochdale                        | 5,972                                               | 610                                     | 10.2       | 2.8                                                               |
| Salford                         | 8,701                                               | 570                                     | 6.6        | 3.7                                                               |



Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET: 2009<sup>1, 5</sup>

|                      | 16 to 18-year-olds known to Connexions <sup>2</sup> | 16 to 18-year-olds NEET <sup>3, 4</sup> |            | Percentage 16 to 18-year-olds whose current activity is not known |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      |                                                     | Estimated number                        | Percentage |                                                                   |
| Sefton               | 10,591                                              | 690                                     | 6.5        | 2.1                                                               |
| St Helens            | 6,733                                               | 500                                     | 7.5        | 2.1                                                               |
| Stockport            | 11,056                                              | 830                                     | 7.5        | 2.6                                                               |
| Tameside             | 7,708                                               | 600                                     | 7.8        | 4.2                                                               |
| Trafford             | 7,433                                               | 400                                     | 5.4        | 4.1                                                               |
| Warrington           | 6,349                                               | 360                                     | 5.6        | 1.7                                                               |
| Wigan                | 11,748                                              | 830                                     | 7.1        | 3.8                                                               |
| Wirral               | 11,261                                              | 1,020                                   | 9.1        | 3.0                                                               |
| <i>North East</i>    | 89,885                                              | 8,090                                   | 9.0        | 4.2                                                               |
| County Durham        | 15,888                                              | 1,570                                   | 9.9        | 4.1                                                               |
| Darlington           | 5,032                                               | 360                                     | 7.1        | 2.4                                                               |
| Gateshead            | 6,384                                               | 560                                     | 8.8        | 5.0                                                               |
| Hartlepool           | 3,693                                               | 270                                     | 7.4        | 2.8                                                               |
| Middlesbrough        | 6,558                                               | 630                                     | 9.6        | 2.5                                                               |
| Newcastle            | 12,585                                              | 980                                     | 7.8        | 6.5                                                               |
| North Tyneside       | 5,661                                               | 460                                     | 8.1        | 4.8                                                               |
| Northumberland       | 9,510                                               | 690                                     | 7.3        | 3.1                                                               |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 4,799                                               | 570                                     | 11.8       | 3.8                                                               |
| South Tyneside       | 4,328                                               | 390                                     | 9.0        | 6.1                                                               |
| Stockton on Tees     | 5,991                                               | 670                                     | 11.1       | 2.7                                                               |
| Sunderland           | 9,455                                               | 900                                     | 9.5        | 4.3                                                               |

<sup>1</sup> 2009 data are an average of the figures provided by Connexions at the end of November 2009, December 2009 and January 2010. They include all young people known to Connexions who were aged 16, 17 or 18 at that time.

<sup>2</sup> The number of 16 to 18-year-olds known to Connexions includes those whose education establishment is located in the local authority area, regardless of where the young person resides.

<sup>3</sup> 16 to 18-year-olds known to be undertaking a gap year, or in custody, are not recorded by Connexions as NEET.

<sup>4</sup> The number and percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET have been adjusted to assume a proportion of those whose current activity is not known are NEET.

<sup>5</sup> The figures above cannot be compared with the DFE estimate of the proportion of young people NEET (SFR 20/2010). The DFE figures use a range of data from different sources to estimate the proportion of the population that is NEET, and relate to the young person's academic age.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Departmental Information Officers

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38955]

**Gregory Barker:** As at the date of the last communications benchmarking exercise on 31 March 2010, DECC had 30 professional communicators, working across a range of disciplines.

As at the same date, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority had 17 professional communicators. Figures for other NDPBs were not available.

DECC has no executive agencies.

### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published

with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39220]

**Gregory Barker:** Since the inception of Contracts Finder the Department of Energy and Climate Change has advertised 22 procurements with a contract value of over £10,000 on the Supply2Gov website. One complete set of tender documents has been placed on Contracts Finder. Currently there are no published contracts with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website.

### Electric Cables

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions (a) Ministers and (b) officials in his Department have had with the National Grid on its policy on undergrounding overhead high voltage electricity transmission lines. [39053]

**Charles Hendry:** Ministers and officials have ongoing discussions with the National Grid on its approach to undergrounding high voltage electricity transmission lines. These discussions have included a request from DECC to the National Grid to fund an independent and authoritative study to give clarity on the practicality, costs and impacts of undergrounding and subsea cabling as alternatives to overhead lines. This independent study is being undertaken by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and consultants KEMA, and will be

owned by those two organisations. DECC is also engaging with the National Grid in relation to its consultation on its approach to undergrounding, which was launched in December 2010.

### Energy

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 477W, on energy, what mechanisms officials will use to decide appropriate compensation and corresponding benefits; and how he plans to achieve consistency across the treatment of cases. [39331]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department will implement the policy of no subsidy for new nuclear power in line with the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 44WS.

### Energy: Subsidies

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of efforts to encourage the World Trade Organisation to promote transparency in energy subsidies; and if he will make a statement. [38138]

**Mr Davey:** I have been asked to reply.

As part of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Doha trade round, negotiations are taking place aimed at strengthening multilateral disciplines on trade distorting subsidies. These negotiations are ongoing.

The UK supports the EU position of seeking strengthened disciplines on trade distorting subsidies. Improving the notification of subsidies by WTO members would promote transparency and is an essential first step in securing greater multilateral control over trade distorting subsidies in all sectors, including those energy subsidies covered by WTO agreements.

### Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of feed-in tariff payments for (a) solar and (b) wind installations have been paid on the measured input of electricity to the grid to date. [38268]

**Charles Hendry:** This information is not available within the Department until the end of year FITs Report is received from Ofgem. However, Ofgem have published data from the quarterly levelisation process up to 30 September 2010 which can be viewed at:

<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Levelisation/Pages/Levelisation.aspx>

### Third Internal Energy Package

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish the guidance on the third party access requirement referred to in paragraph 5.16 of the Government's response to its consultation on the Implementation of the EU Third Internal Energy Package. [37841]

**Charles Hendry:** Guidance on third party access requirements for licence exempt gas and electricity distribution networks will be published as soon as possible after regulations have been laid.

### Wind Power

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost of constructing fossil fuel power stations to compensate for the intermittency of wind power generation in the period up to 2030. [38393]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department has not provided estimates of the cost of constructing fossil fuel power stations to compensate for intermittency in the period out to 2030. These costs would depend on a wide range of factors including the total volume and mix of fossil fuel capacity required as well as infrastructure construction and supply chain costs.

Fossil fuel power stations are not the only way to provide back up for intermittent wind generation. There are a number of alternative solutions including responsive demand, interconnection and storage such as pumped storage, batteries and hydrogen, all of which are expected to play a role in the future energy mix.

The Department has however published a number of studies which give estimates of the total cost of fossil fuel capacity under a range of renewables scenarios. These studies, the Redpoint Analysis (2009) and UK Renewable Energy Strategy: Impact Assessment for the Centralised Electricity Sector, are available at:

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/whatwe\\_do/uksupply/energymix/renewable/res/res.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/whatwe_do/uksupply/energymix/renewable/res/res.aspx)

In this wider context, the Government are currently consulting on future Electricity Market Reform. This consultation is available at:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/emr/emr.aspx>

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely cost per kilowatt hour of fossil fuel-powered generation to provide back-up for the intermittency of wind power generation in 2030. [38394]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department has not provided estimates of the cost per kilowatt hour of fossil generation in 2030 to provide back up to intermittency. In principle this would depend on a range of factors including the fixed costs of the plant, and the prevailing wholesale fuel price.

Fossil fuel power stations are not the only way to provide back up for intermittent wind generation. There are a number of alternative solutions including responsive demand, interconnection and storage such as pumped storage, batteries and hydrogen, all of which are expected to play a role in the future energy mix.

The Department has however published a number of studies which give estimates of the total cost of fossil fuel capacity under a range of renewables scenarios. These studies, the Redpoint Analysis (2009) and UK Renewable Energy Strategy: Impact Assessment for the Centralised Electricity Sector, are available at:

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/whatwedo/uk\\_supply/energymix/renewable/res/res.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/whatwedo/uk_supply/energymix/renewable/res/res.aspx)

In this wider context, the Government are currently consulting on future Electricity Market Reform. This consultation is available at:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cins/consultations/emr/emr.aspx>

## CABINET OFFICE

### Charitable Donations

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of trends in charitable giving by (a) corporations and (b) individuals in the last 30 years. [35806]

**Mr Hurd:** The information is as follows:

(a) As part of the Giving Green Paper published in December 2010, levels of corporate donations were assessed. Drawing on data from the Charity Market Monitor, the assessment found that in 2008-09 corporate donations to charity ranged from under 1% to 48% of pre-tax profits. On average, in over 80% of industries, donations by firms were less than 1% of pre-tax profits. In terms of amounts donated, companies in the pharmaceutical industry gave the largest amounts. Trends in corporate giving were not assessed as part of the Giving Green Paper.

(b) The Giving Green Paper, published in December 2010, cited analysis carried out by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). The assessment found that over the last six years, average amounts donated to charity by individuals have risen largely in line with GDP growth. In 2009-10, 28.4 million adults (56%) donated to charity in a typical month. We do not hold data showing donations over the last 30 years.

### Childbirth

**John Pugh:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which maternity units recorded fewer than 200 live births in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [39109]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking which maternity units recorded fewer than 200 live births in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [39109]

Figures on live births by hospital can be compiled from birth registration data for England and Wales that are held by the Office for National Statistics. In this dataset, information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration (usually a parent) rather than by the hospitals themselves.

The attached document provides a list of maternity units in England and Wales with fewer than 200 live births occurring in 2009, the latest year available.

*Maternity units in England and Wales where fewer than 200 live births occurred in 2009*

|   | Communal establishment name                           | Town/city            |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Andover Birth Centre<br>Andover War Memorial Hospital | Andover              |
| 2 | Berwick Infirmary                                     | Berwick-on-Tweed     |
| 3 | Brecon War Memorial Hospital                          | Brecon               |
| 4 | Bridgnorth Hospital                                   | Northgate Bridgnorth |
| 5 | Bridgwater Hospital                                   | Bridgwater           |

*Maternity units in England and Wales where fewer than 200 live births occurred in 2009*

|    | Communal establishment name                    | Town/city              |
|----|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6  | Bridlington and District Hospital              | Bridlington            |
| 7  | Bryn Beryl Hospital                            | Pwllheli               |
| 8  | Chipping Norton War Memorial Hospital          | Chipping Norton        |
| 9  | Clacton and District Hospital                  | Clacton on Sea         |
| 10 | Corbar Birth Centre Buxton Hospital            | Buxton                 |
| 11 | Darley Birth Centre Whitworth Hospital         | Matlock                |
| 12 | Denbigh Infirmary                              | Denbigh                |
| 13 | Dolgellau and Barmouth District Hospital       | Dolgellau Gwynedd      |
| 14 | Gilchrist Maternity Unit, Hartismere Hospital  | Eye                    |
| 15 | Goole and District Hospital                    | Goole                  |
| 16 | Grantham and District Hospital                 | Grantham               |
| 17 | Halstead Birthing Centre                       | Halstead               |
| 18 | Helston Community Hospital                     | Helston                |
| 19 | Hexham General Hospital                        | Hexham                 |
| 20 | Hillcrest Maternity Home                       | Alnwick                |
| 21 | Holistic Birthing Centre                       | Northwich              |
| 22 | Honiton Hospital                               | Honiton                |
| 23 | Knighton Hospital                              | Knighton               |
| 24 | Llandrindod Wells County War Memorial Hospital | Llandrindod Wells      |
| 25 | Llanidloes War Memorial Hospital               | Llanidloes             |
| 26 | Ludlow Hospital (Maternity)                    | Ludlow                 |
| 27 | Malton Hospital                                | Malton                 |
| 28 | Montgomery County Infirmary                    | Llanllwchaiarn Newtown |
| 29 | Newton Abbot Hospital                          | Newton Abbot           |
| 30 | Nuneaton Private Hospital                      | Nuneaton               |
| 31 | Okehampton Community Hospital                  | Okehampton             |
| 32 | Orthopaedic and District Hospital (Maternity)  | Oswestry               |
| 33 | Penrith Hospital                               | Penrith                |
| 34 | St Marys Hospital                              | Isles of Scilly        |
| 35 | St Peters Maternity Unit St Peters Hospital    | Shepton Mallet         |
| 36 | Tair Afon General Hospital                     | Aberdare               |
| 37 | The Birth Centre, Tooting                      | London                 |
| 38 | The Fryatt Hospital                            | Harwich                |
| 39 | The Wantage Hospital                           | Wantage                |
| 40 | Tiverton and District Hospital                 | Tiverton               |
| 41 | Tywyn and District War Memorial Hospital       | Tywyn Gwynedd          |
| 42 | Victoria Memorial Hospital                     | Welshpool              |
| 43 | Wakefield Birth Centre                         | Wakefield              |
| 44 | Wallingford Community Hospital                 | Wallingford            |
| 45 | Whitby Community Hospital                      | Whitby                 |

#### Note:

This list is based on number of births from January to December 2009. It is likely that some small maternity units will have closed since 2009 and others may have opened. The list includes both NHS and private maternity units.



### Citizens Advice: Manpower

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to support staffing levels in (a) advice bureaux and (b) other agencies which rely on volunteer staff. [38498]

**Mr Hurd:** Encouraging social action, including volunteering is one of the three aims of the Government's vision for a big society. In December 2010 the Government published the "Giving Green" paper, which sought to start a debate on how we can make social action a norm and encourage more people to give their time. The Green paper announced two new funds to increase volunteering which will support agencies that rely on volunteer staff. The two funds are:

1. A £40 million volunteering match fund to encourage private sector investment in volunteering.
2. A £42.5 million fund to support local volunteering infrastructure making it easier for people to find local volunteering opportunities.

Citizens advice bureaux were also able to apply to the £100 million transition fund which will help civil society organisations delivering front-line services to become more resilient in the changing funding environment. The first round of payments to successful applicants will be made by the end of March 2011.

In addition, the Cabinet Office is the lead coordinating body for the 2011 European year of volunteering. One of the main priorities for the year is to encourage and enable individuals to make a contribution within their communities and help social issues by volunteering.

### Civic Society Initiatives

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what comparative research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on approaches to civic society initiatives in other countries. [38467]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has not commissioned or formally evaluated research into approaches to civic society initiatives in other countries. However, the Department continues to look to other countries to identify examples of such initiatives, and to learn lessons in best practice to inform ongoing policy development in this area.

### Community Relations

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on the effect of levels of inequality on levels of social cohesion and social trust. [38454]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Cabinet Office has not commissioned any research on the effect of levels of inequality on levels of social cohesion and social trust.

(b) The Cabinet Office has not evaluated any research on the effect of levels of inequality on levels of social cohesion and social trust.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of relative levels of social capital in each socio-economic group. [38456]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has not made an assessment of relative levels of social capital among socio-economic groups.

### Deaths: Carbon Monoxide

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths attributable to poisoning from carbon monoxide there were in each age decile in each local authority area in each of the last 15 years. [38590]

**Mr Hurd:** The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking:

How many deaths attributable to poisoning from carbon monoxide there were in each age decile in each local authority in each of the last 15 years. [38590]

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of carbon monoxide was the cause of death by 10-year age group (Table 1), for England and Wales, from 1995 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Numbers of deaths by age group for local authorities have not been given in line with the current ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

Table 1. Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning, by age group, England and Wales, 1997 to 2009<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

|      | Deaths (persons) |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |
|------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
|      | 0-9              | 10-19 | 20-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-59 | 60-69 | 70-79 | 80+ |
| 1995 | 18               | 14    | 228   | 264   | 247   | 132   | 80    | 59    | 46  |
| 1996 | 18               | 18    | 204   | 257   | 243   | 126   | 71    | 58    | 52  |
| 1997 | 13               | 31    | 170   | 205   | 184   | 109   | 54    | 58    | 49  |
| 1998 | 10               | 11    | 126   | 197   | 154   | 114   | 48    | 52    | 35  |
| 1999 | 11               | 13    | 100   | 176   | 147   | 104   | 46    | 58    | 50  |
| 2000 | 12               | 12    | 91    | 154   | 101   | 92    | 38    | 39    | 37  |
| 2001 | 9                | 14    | 70    | 112   | 108   | 83    | 32    | 30    | 45  |
| 2002 | 10               | 7     | 49    | 112   | 119   | 79    | 31    | 18    | 27  |
| 2003 | 7                | 8     | 49    | 89    | 89    | 62    | 29    | 25    | 28  |
| 2004 | 7                | 8     | 47    | 104   | 77    | 53    | 28    | 28    | 22  |
| 2005 | 4                | 5     | 20    | 64    | 62    | 39    | 26    | 15    | 28  |
| 2006 | 12               | 5     | 12    | 51    | 79    | 51    | 16    | 19    | 16  |
| 2007 | 2                | 1     | 34    | 50    | 51    | 41    | 33    | 18    | 21  |
| 2008 | 2                | 0     | 13    | 31    | 58    | 52    | 23    | 13    | 26  |
| 2009 | 4                | 5     | 18    | 34    | 71    | 41    | 23    | 21    | 19  |

<sup>1</sup> Cause of death from carbon monoxide poisoning was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 986 for the years 1995 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T58 for the years 2001 to 2009, where these codes appeared as the secondary cause.

<sup>2</sup> Figures include deaths of non-residents.

<sup>3</sup> Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

### Deaths: Prostate Cancer

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year from 1997-98 to 2009-10; [38809]

(2) what the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year from 1997-98 to 2009-10. [38811]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1. How many deaths from prostate cancer there were in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year from 1997-98 to 2009-10. (38809)

2. What the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was in (a) England, (b) each primary care trust area and (c) each constituency in each year from 1997-98 to 2009-10. (38811)

Tables 1 to 3 provide the number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, in (a) England (Table 7), (b) each primary care organisation in England (Table 2) and (c) each parliamentary constituency in England (Table 3), for the years 1997 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Tables 4 to 6 provide the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, in (a) England, for the years 1997 to 2009 (the latest year available) (Table 4), (b) each primary care organisation in England, for the years 2001 to 2009 (the only period available) (Table 5), and (c) each parliamentary constituency in England, for the years 2001 to 2007 (the only period available) (Table 6).

A copy of Tables 2, 3, 5 and 6 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Figures are provided for calendar years (January to December) to be consistent with routine mortality outputs.

Mortality rates for primary care organisations and parliamentary constituencies can only be calculated for the periods given due to the availability of population estimates. Boundary changes to parliamentary constituencies implemented in May 2010 are not reflected in the population estimates currently available for parliamentary constituencies. Figures have therefore been provided for the former boundaries.

*Table 1. Number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, England, 1997 to 2009<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup>*

|      | Males<br>Deaths |
|------|-----------------|
| 1997 | 7,982           |
| 1998 | 8,074           |
| 1999 | 8,015           |
| 2000 | 7,761           |
| 2001 | 8,305           |
| 2002 | 8,471           |
| 2003 | 8,570           |
| 2004 | 8,531           |
| 2005 | 8,492           |
| 2006 | 8,506           |
| 2007 | 8,659           |
| 2008 | 8,597           |
| 2009 | 8,842           |

<sup>1</sup> Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61 from 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

<sup>2</sup> Based on boundaries as of 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

<sup>4</sup> Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Table 4. Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 males, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, England, 1997 to 2009<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</sup>*

|      | Males<br>Rate per 100,000 |
|------|---------------------------|
| 1997 | 28                        |
| 1998 | 28                        |
| 1999 | 27                        |
| 2000 | 26                        |
| 2001 | 27                        |

*Table 4. Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 males, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, England, 1997 to 2009<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</sup>*

|      | Males<br>Rate per 100,000 |
|------|---------------------------|
| 2002 | 27                        |
| 2003 | 27                        |
| 2004 | 26                        |
| 2005 | 26                        |
| 2006 | 25                        |
| 2007 | 25                        |
| 2008 | 24                        |
| 2009 | 24                        |

<sup>1</sup> Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

<sup>2</sup> Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61 from 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

<sup>3</sup> Based on boundaries as of 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

<sup>5</sup> Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the age-standardised incidence rate for prostate cancer is; and how many diagnoses of prostate cancer there were in (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority area, (c) each primary care trust area and (d) each parliamentary constituency in each year since 1997. [38810]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the age-standardised incidence rate for prostate cancer is; and how many diagnoses of prostate cancer there were in (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority area, (c) each primary care trust area and (d) each parliamentary constituency in each year since 1997. [38810]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Cancer incidence rates can only be calculated from 2002 onwards for strategic health authorities, from 2001 for primary care organisations and from 2001 to 2007 for parliamentary constituencies due to the availability of population estimates for these areas.

Boundary changes to parliamentary constituencies implemented in May 2010 are not reflected in the population estimates currently available for parliamentary constituencies. New population estimates for 2008 and 2009 and revised estimates for 2002 to 2007 will be published on 23 February 2011. These will reflect the boundary changes that came into effect in May 2010 and will also be comparable with the revised Local Authority mid-year population estimates published in 2010.

The number of prostate cancer cases in each parliamentary constituency has not been given for individual years, in line with ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within patients' data.

The tables provide:

(a) The age-standardised incidence rate per 100,000 population (Table 1), and the number of diagnoses (incidence) (Table 2) of prostate cancer in England, for the years 1997 to 2008.

(b) The age-standardised incidence rate per 100,000 population, for prostate cancer, for strategic health authorities in England for the years 2002 to 2008 (Table 3), and the number of diagnoses (incidence) for prostate cancer for strategic health authorities in England for the years 1997 to 2008 (Table 4).

(c) The age-standardised incidence rate per 100,000 population, for prostate cancer, for primary care organisations in England for years 2001 to 2008 (Table 5) and the number of diagnoses (incidence) for prostate cancer for primary care organisations in England for years 1997 to 2008 (Table 6).

(d) The age-standardised incidence rate per 100,000 population, for prostate cancer, for parliamentary constituencies in England for the years 2001 to 2007 combined (Table 7), and the number of diagnoses (incidence) for prostate cancer for parliamentary constituencies in England for combined years 1997-02 and 2003-07 (Table 8). Figures presented in Table 8 were extracted using the old parliamentary constituency boundaries, pre-May 2010, to be comparable with Table 7.

A copy of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The cancer incidence figures for England match the published figures for the latest year of incidence, in this case for the year 2008. The cancer incidence figures for previous years, in this case 1997 to 2007, differ from those in the Annual Reference Volumes Series MB1 "Cancer statistics registrations, England" because the figures in this answer were obtained from the National Cancer Registrations system which is a live database.

The question asks for data by primary care trust. There are 147 primary care trusts, which are referred to (with the four care trusts and one care trust plus) as primary care organisations (PCOs, 152 in total). Figures have been provided for all primary care organisations.

Primary care organisations have been listed under the strategic health authorities they report to. However, not all PCOs are entirely within the boundaries of the SHAs to which they report, so the sum of PCO incidences do not always equal the figure presented for an SHA.

Tameside and Glossop PCT reports to North West SHA but is partly within East Midlands SHA.

Lincolnshire PCT reports to East Midlands SHA but is partly within Yorkshire and the Humber SHA.

Berkshire East PCT reports to South Central SHA but is partly within South East Coast SHA.

Swindon PCT reports to South West SHA but is partly within South Central SHA.

ONS has published population estimates for primary care organisations for 2001 to 2008, based on boundaries following the 2006 reorganisation. These estimates are consistent with the local authority estimates.

ONS published population estimates for parliamentary constituencies for 2001 to 2007, as experimental statistics. Experimental statistics are in a testing or consultation phase and are not fully developed, and should therefore be treated with caution. Further information about experimental statistics can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=173>

With the exception of figures presented for parliamentary constituencies, figures were extracted using the latest boundaries for consistency. This means that figures for past time periods can sometimes differ from those previously published by ONS for those periods, where boundaries have changed over time.

Table 1. Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, prostate cancer, males, England, 1997 to 2008<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

| England | Cases per 100,000 (males) |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 1997    | 71                        |
| 1998    | 72                        |
| 1999    | 78                        |
| 2000    | 85                        |
| 2001    | 96                        |

Table 1. Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, prostate cancer, males, England, 1997 to 2008<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

| England | Cases per 100,000 (males) |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 2002    | 96                        |
| 2003    | 96                        |
| 2004    | 103                       |
| 2005    | 99                        |
| 2006    | 103                       |
| 2007    | 100                       |
| 2008    | 98                        |

<sup>1</sup> Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

<sup>2</sup> Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

<sup>3</sup> Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer, males, England, 1997 to 2008<sup>1, 2</sup>

| England | Registrations (males) |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1997    | 20,006                |
| 1998    | 20,480                |
| 1999    | 22,387                |
| 2000    | 24,593                |
| 2001    | 28,015                |
| 2002    | 28,246                |
| 2003    | 28,503                |
| 2004    | 30,975                |
| 2005    | 30,053                |
| 2006    | 31,476                |
| 2007    | 31,236                |
| 2008    | 30,893                |

<sup>1</sup> Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

<sup>2</sup> Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Table 3. Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, prostate cancer, males, strategic health authorities in England, 2002-08<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup>

|                          | Cases per 100,000 (males) |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                          | 2002                      | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
| North East               | 90                        | 97   | 86   | 93   | 86   | 87   | 83   |
| North West               | 88                        | 90   | 108  | 101  | 104  | 97   | 90   |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 89                        | 90   | 101  | 97   | 102  | 101  | 96   |
| East Midlands            | 84                        | 82   | 94   | 99   | 102  | 102  | 97   |
| West Midlands            | 102                       | 102  | 109  | 104  | 107  | 99   | 102  |
| East of England          | 99                        | 96   | 99   | 102  | 101  | 102  | 104  |
| London                   | 97                        | 97   | 100  | 95   | 99   | 103  | 102  |
| South East Coast         | 89                        | 89   | 94   | 91   | 96   | 94   | 92   |
| South Central            | 110                       | 107  | 116  | 100  | 108  | 102  | 94   |
| South West               | 110                       | 111  | 116  | 104  | 111  | 112  | 106  |

<sup>1</sup> Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

<sup>2</sup> Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

<sup>3</sup> Based on boundaries as of 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.



Table 4. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer, males, strategic health authorities in England, 1997 to 2008<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

|                          | 1997  | 1998  | 1999  | 2000  | 2001  | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | Males<br>2008 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| North East               | 902   | 1,066 | 1,235 | 1,249 | 1,417 | 1,406 | 1,504 | 1,369 | 1,475 | 1,394 | 1,424 | 1,377         |
| North West               | 2,555 | 2,627 | 2,841 | 3,107 | 3,659 | 3,535 | 3,632 | 4,403 | 4,183 | 4,334 | 4,081 | 3,876         |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1,861 | 1,828 | 1,943 | 2,399 | 2,678 | 2,664 | 2,713 | 3,063 | 2,968 | 3,175 | 3,179 | 3,050         |
| East Midlands            | 1,465 | 1,531 | 1,751 | 1,973 | 2,162 | 2,194 | 2,161 | 2,543 | 2,694 | 2,847 | 2,888 | 2,818         |
| West Midlands            | 2,093 | 2,254 | 2,416 | 2,745 | 3,109 | 3,257 | 3,303 | 3,564 | 3,457 | 3,591 | 3,371 | 3,506         |
| East of England          | 2,286 | 2,289 | 2,646 | 2,986 | 3,290 | 3,396 | 3,341 | 3,492 | 3,617 | 3,675 | 3,733 | 3,945         |
| London                   | 2,616 | 2,678 | 2,768 | 2,843 | 3,155 | 3,199 | 3,184 | 3,296 | 3,152 | 3,260 | 3,397 | 3,377         |
| South East Coast         | 2,102 | 2,018 | 2,264 | 2,341 | 2,522 | 2,382 | 2,415 | 2,548 | 2,470 | 2,634 | 2,623 | 2,613         |
| South Central            | 1,491 | 1,651 | 1,831 | 2,074 | 2,392 | 2,407 | 2,368 | 2,615 | 2,279 | 2,499 | 2,416 | 2,302         |
| South West               | 2,635 | 2,538 | 2,692 | 2,876 | 3,631 | 3,806 | 3,882 | 4,082 | 3,758 | 4,067 | 4,124 | 4,029         |

<sup>1</sup> Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

<sup>2</sup> Based on boundaries as of 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

### Ethnic Groups: Greater London

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what his most recent estimate is of the ethnic minority population of each (a) borough and (b) ward in London; [38283]

(2) what estimate he has made of the size of the ethnic minority population of (a) London, (b) the London borough of Merton and (c) Merton Park ward; [38459]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in each ethnic group in each council ward in the London borough of Merton. [38460]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions.

The term 'ethnic minority' is used in different senses. ONS practice is to use the term to mean 'ethnic group other than White British'.

The most appropriate source of information on the population by ethnic group for London boroughs is the Population Estimates by Ethnic Group. The latest estimates from this source relate to 2007 and are shown for London and its constituent boroughs, including Merton, in Table 1 below (38283a, 38459a,b).

The latest estimates of the population by ethnic group for wards are those from the 2001 Census. The census estimate of the total 'ethnic minority' population for Merton Park ward, together with the corresponding census estimates for Merton and London for reference, are shown in Table 2 below (38459c).

The census estimates of the 'ethnic minority' population for all wards in London, together with the corresponding census estimates for London boroughs for reference, are provided in a table lodged with the House of Commons library (38283b).

The census estimates of the population in each ethnic group for each ward in Merton are provided in a table lodged with the House of Commons library (38460).

The Census estimates contained in these tables are also available, or can be derived from, table KS06 in the Key Statistics for Local

Authorities in England and Wales and Key Statistics for Wards in England and Wales reports held in the House of Commons library.

### Annex

Table 1: Estimated 'ethnic minority' population<sup>1</sup> of London and constituent local authorities, 2007<sup>2</sup>

| Area                   | Total population | Thousand<br>'Ethnic minority'<br>population <sup>1</sup> |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| London                 | 7,556.9          | 3,195.1                                                  |
| City of London         | 8.0              | 2.5                                                      |
| Barking and Dagenham   | 166.9            | 51.0                                                     |
| Barnet                 | 329.7            | 141.9                                                    |
| Bexley                 | 222.1            | 39.1                                                     |
| Brent                  | 270.0            | 184.7                                                    |
| Bromley                | 300.7            | 55.2                                                     |
| Camden                 | 231.9            | 110.5                                                    |
| Croydon                | 339.5            | 141.9                                                    |
| Ealing                 | 305.3            | 165.7                                                    |
| Enfield                | 285.1            | 123.9                                                    |
| Greenwich              | 223.1            | 77.4                                                     |
| Hackney                | 209.7            | 108.1                                                    |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 172.5            | 67.8                                                     |
| Haringey               | 224.7            | 114.6                                                    |
| Harrow                 | 214.6            | 114.5                                                    |
| Havering               | 228.4            | 31.0                                                     |
| Hillingdon             | 250.7            | 85.2                                                     |
| Hounslow               | 220.6            | 104.8                                                    |
| Islington              | 187.8            | 76.5                                                     |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 178.6            | 88.2                                                     |
| Kingston upon Thames   | 157.9            | 46.9                                                     |
| Lambeth                | 273.2            | 121.4                                                    |
| Lewisham               | 258.5            | 115.8                                                    |
| Merton                 | 199.3            | 79.5                                                     |
| Newham                 | 249.6            | 168.9                                                    |
| Redbridge              | 254.4            | 124.6                                                    |

Table 1: Estimated 'ethnic minority' population<sup>1</sup> of London and constituent local authorities, 2007<sup>2</sup>

| Area                 | Total population | Thousand<br>'Ethnic minority'<br>population <sup>1</sup> |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Richmond upon Thames | 180.0            | 45.8                                                     |
| Southwark            | 274.4            | 130.2                                                    |
| Sutton               | 185.9            | 40.1                                                     |
| Tower Hamlets        | 215.3            | 119.5                                                    |
| Waltham Forest       | 222.3            | 105.0                                                    |
| Wandsworth           | 281.8            | 94.2                                                     |
| Westminster          | 234.1            | 118.4                                                    |

<sup>1</sup> 'Ethnic minority' is defined here as all ethnic groups other than 'white British'.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates relate to mid-year (30 June 2007).

Source:

Population Estimates by Ethnic Group, Office for National Statistics

Table 2: 2001 Census estimates of the 'ethnic minority' population<sup>1</sup> of London, Merton and Merton Park Ward, 2001<sup>2</sup>

| Area        | Total population | Thousand<br>'Ethnic minority'<br>population <sup>1</sup> |
|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| London      | 7,172.1          | 2,884.2                                                  |
| Merton      | 187.9            | 67.5                                                     |
| Merton Park | 9.1              | 2.9                                                      |

<sup>1</sup> 'Ethnic minority' is defined here as all ethnic groups other than 'white British'.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates relate to Census day (29 April 2001).

Source:

Table KS06, 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

### Internet

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on the effect of use of the internet on levels of social capital. [38370]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has neither commissioned nor evaluated any such research.

### Job Security

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on the effect of (i) economic trends and (ii) trends in job security on levels of social trust. [38458]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Cabinet Office has not commissioned any research on the effect of economic trends and trends in job security on levels of social trust.

(b) The Cabinet Office has not evaluated any research on the effect of economic trends and trends in job security on levels of social trust.

### Mutual Pathfinder Fund

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many applications his Department received to its mutual pathfinder fund to 31 January 2011. [38719]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office does not have a specific initiative known as the mutual pathfinder fund. However, there are two related areas of work which may be relevant:

### The Mutual Support Programme:

The Government have committed to investing at least £10 million in support for some of the most promising and innovative mutuals in order that they reach the point of investment readiness from spring 2011. The programme is not currently open and therefore has not received any applications.

### Mutual Pathfinders:

Leading experts, such as Co-ops UK, the Employee Ownership Association and Local Partnerships, as well as Cabinet Office and other Government Departments, are receiving and processing requests for information, support and guidance about opportunities for mutualisation. Mutualisation projects are being driven by employees across the public sector. The Cabinet Office pathfinder programme includes cross-section of 21 projects to build awareness of these opportunities. Pathfinders do not receive any financial assistance from Cabinet Office, as such there is not a formal applications process for becoming a Cabinet Office mutual pathfinder.

### New Businesses

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have been established in each region since June 2010. [39187]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

### Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new businesses have been established in each region since June 2010. [39187]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

However, information is not available for periods later than 2009. The table below contains the latest statistics, which show the number of enterprise births in 2009 by Government Office Region.

Enterprise births 2009 by Government office region

|                          | Number  |
|--------------------------|---------|
| North East               | 6,625   |
| North West               | 23,920  |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 17,005  |
| East Midlands            | 14,860  |
| West Midlands            | 18,245  |
| East of England          | 23,535  |
| London                   | 50,575  |
| South East               | 36,320  |
| South West               | 17,945  |
| Wales                    | 8,325   |
| Scotland                 | 14,725  |
| Northern Ireland         | 3,945   |
| Total                    | 236,025 |

### Occupations

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on levels of social trust in each major occupational group. [38316]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Cabinet Office has not commissioned any specific research into levels of social trust among major occupational groups.

(b) The Cabinet Office has not made a recent assessment of levels of social trust among major occupational groups.

### Social Trust

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of (a) levels of and (b) trends in social trust in the last 30 years. [38372]

**Mr Hurd:** The information is as follows:

(a) The Cabinet Office has not made an assessment of levels of social trust in the last 30 years.

(b) The Cabinet Office has not made an assessment of trends in social trust in the last 30 years.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on levels of (i) formal and (ii) informal sociability in the last 30 years. [38374]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has neither commissioned nor evaluated any such research.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of social trust to the development of the big society initiative. [38377]

**Mr Hurd:** The big society is about building stronger communities, strengthening the links between individuals and enabling them to come together to solve problems in their local area. This will build on and develop existing levels of social trust, and Government will maintain ongoing relationships with communities as policy is developed.

### Trading Systems

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of trends in the number of local exchange trading systems since 1990. [38496]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has made no such assessment.

### Voluntary Organisations

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment has been made of the relationship between the private and voluntary sectors as part of the Government's big society initiative. [38328]

**Mr Hurd:** The business community has a vital role in the development of the big society and already makes a significant contribution in supporting local voluntary and community organisations in a range of ways: sharing assets and expertise, philanthropic donations, and exchange of staff. For example, the Prime Minister has called on businesses to train 1,000 "Business Connectors" who can help voluntary and community organisations become more innovative and entrepreneurial.

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what account will be taken of corporate social responsibility as part of the Government's big society initiative. [38329]

**Mr Hurd:** Business will play a crucial role in helping to build the big society: we need the commitment, creativity and innovation of businesses to help tackle the challenges that confront us. That is why the Government have launched Every Business Commits, which asks business to do its part not just in creating economic growth but also by adding its expertise to tackling social problems and building stronger communities. Every Business Commits goes beyond corporate social responsibility and calls on businesses to help create a more sustainable and community-centred approach to doing business. This might include investing in future skills, protecting the environment, supporting their local community, investing in employee wellbeing, and encouraging the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which organisations have participated in consultation exercises related to the Government's big society initiative; and if he will make a statement. [38461]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office maintains close relationships with many organisations in relation to the big society. In particular, two recent Green Papers on "Modernising Commissioning" and on "Giving", and a consultation on Supporting a Stronger Civil Society have drawn in a very good mix of responses from frontline civil society organisations, local authorities and other public sector organisations, private businesses and individuals, and academics.

Summaries of these consultations will be published in due course.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what (a) opinion polls and (b) research his Department has commissioned on its big society initiative; and if he will publish the results of each. [38468]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has not commissioned any opinion polls relating to the big society. However, the Department is commissioning a series of evaluations to assess the effectiveness of policy initiatives relating to building a stronger civil society. For example, the Office for Civil Society is currently commissioning an evaluation of National Citizen Service; the flagship initiative to support young people in becoming active and responsible citizens. This evaluation is due to commence in spring 2011 and will assess the effectiveness of both the 2011 and 2012 pilots in building a more responsible, cohesive and engaged society.

It is currently too early to publish results from such research, however in line with the Government's commitment to transparency, all research reports will be fully published, as they become available, at:

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in his Department are engaged in work related to the Government's big society initiative. [38469]

**Mr Hurd:** The Office for Civil Society (OCS) leads the Government's contribution to building the big society. It works right across Whitehall and beyond to translate



the big society vision into practical policies and deliver a radical change in the relationship between the citizen and the state.

On 31 December 2010, 86 members of the OCS were working on the big society issues. Staff work on a broad range of policy areas and are currently engaged on piloting the National Citizen Service with 30,000 young people, building the big society bank, training 5,000 community organisers, delivering the £100 million transition fund as well as policy development in the areas of philanthropy and giving, reforming public services, charity law, volunteering, social enterprise and social investment.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what public consultation activity his Department is undertaking on the big society initiative; and how much his Department has allocated for such activities in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12. [38470]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office maintains close relationships with key stakeholders as policy is developed.

The "Giving" Green Paper launched in December 2010 is a public consultation document that forms part of the Big Society approach. Anyone with an interest in this paper can respond by 9 March 2011. The "Modernising Commissioning" Green Paper consultation closed on 5 January 2011. The Supporting a Stronger Civil Society consultation closed on 6 January 2011.

The costs of these consultations are absorbed into the running costs of the Department, as an essential part of the policy development process.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what targets his Department has set to measure progress in its big society initiative. [38501]

**Mr Hurd:** The big society is about building stronger communities, strengthening the links between individuals and enabling them to come together to solve problems in their local area. There are no targets in place to measure big society; although officials are considering innovative ways of tracking the progress of big society, without imposing reporting burdens on local initiatives.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the effects on the development of the Government's big society initiative of changes in the level of social cohesion in areas subject to de-industrialisation. [39011]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply.

The development of the big society is part of the Government's agenda to decentralise power to local areas. The Localism Bill, currently receiving parliamentary scrutiny, sets out many of the provisions which will underpin this process. Decisions on local issues affecting social cohesion will be increasingly put into the hands of local communities, and the measures we are taking to encourage local transparency of local government services, data, and expenditure will further enable these communities to take an informed role in these decisions, and assess progress locally.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the effects of trends in social trust in the British Social Attitudes Survey in the last

20 years in the context of the development of the big society initiative. [39014]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has not made a recent assessment of the trends in social trust in the British Social Attitudes Survey over the last 20 years. However, the Department is constantly reviewing sources of evidence relating to the development of the big society, and will continue to incorporate data from a number of sources, including the British Social Attitudes Survey, to inform this analysis.

### Voluntary Work: Young People

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of levels of volunteering among (a) children and (b) young adults; and whether he plans to promote volunteering to each such group. [38500]

**Mr Hurd:** Levels of volunteering in young people is measured by the Citizenship Survey. In December 2010 the Government published the "Giving" Green Paper, which sought to start a debate about how we can make social action and volunteering a social norm for all ages. The Green Paper announced over £80 million available over the next four years to promote volunteering.

The Government are also investing in National Citizen Service, which will promote volunteering and community action. This flagship project is aimed at young people aged 16 and will combine outdoor activities and social action projects designed by the participants, both in their communities and away from home. Over 11,000 young people will have the opportunity to take part in a pilot NCS scheme over the summer.

For young people specifically, the Cabinet Office will also continue to provide financial support to the youth volunteering charity, v, during the 2010 spending review period.

### Young People

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information the Office for National Statistics collects on the average number of hours per day people aged between (a) five and 15 years, (b) 16 and 19 years and (c) 20 and 25 years spend alone. [38384]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what information ONS collects on the average number of hours per day people aged between (a) five and 15 years, (b) 16 and 19 years and (c) 20 and 25 spend alone (38384).

In 2000, ONS conducted the UK Time Use Survey, which aimed to measure the amount of time spent by the UK population on various activities and who they were with when undertaking those activities. Children under the age of 8 were not included in the survey. The wording of the questionnaire means that one cannot distinguish between spells when children were alone and when they were with people they did not know.

ONS published figures only for the following age groups: 8 to 13 years, 14-15 years and 16 years and above. It showed that people aged:

8 to 13 years spent an average of 35 minutes per person per day, alone or with people they did not know;

14 to 15 years spent an average of 81 minutes per person per day, alone or with people they did not know;

16 or over spent an average of 194 minutes per person per day, alone or with people they did not know.

This is the latest information available.

The Time-Use Survey, ONS.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=9326>

#### Young People: Television

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate the Office for National Statistics makes of the average number of hours per day spent by (a) boys and (b) girls on watching television. [38385]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question relating to average number of hours per day spent by (a) boys and (b) girls in watching television (38385).

In 2000, ONS conducted the UK Time Use Survey that aimed to measure the amount of time spent by the UK population on various activities. The survey showed that on average:

boys aged between 8 and 15 spent 134 minutes per day watching TV and an additional 6 minutes watching videos or DVDs.

girls aged between 8 and 15 spent 131 minutes per day watching TV and an additional 7 minutes watching videos or DVDs.

In 2005 a further time use diary was collected on a much smaller scale, using a pre-coded diary as part of the NS Omnibus survey. This survey only asked questions to adults.

The Time-Use Survey, ONS.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=9326>

## Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 10 February 2011

### ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

#### Common Land

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 704W, on common land, if she will assess the effects on the voluntary dedication of town or village greens of provisions in administrative law that prevent Administrations acting in a way which is motivated by the desire to bind their successors; and if she will assess the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to enable local authorities to designate town or village greens. [35074]

**Richard Benyon:** In our view, a local authority may apply under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006 to voluntarily register land in its ownership as a town or village green, but may not register land which it manages but does not own. In our view, registration under section 15(8) would be a disposal of land for the purposes of section 123 or 127 (as the case may be) of the Local Government Act 1972, and the authority must comply with the requirements of those provisions. We expect that most local authority proposals for voluntary registration are likely to fall within the terms of the General Disposal Consent 2003, set out in ODPM circular 6/03. However, an authority will also need to comply with the special requirements of section 123(2A) or 127(3), as regards the disposal of open space.

We will publish in due course updated guidance on voluntary applications for registration of land under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006, which takes account of these requirements.

#### Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to announce the outcomes of her Department's consultation on the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. [37855]

**Mr Paice:** We have been working closely with the Home Office on this issue. On 7 February they launched a consultation on a new antisocial behaviour framework in which dogs are included. This can be found on the Home Office website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/asb-consultation>

A further announcement will be made by DEFRA shortly concerning other matters raised in our consultation.

#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the (a) sustainability and (b) contribution to net decreases in carbon and greenhouse gas emissions of (i) cellulosic ethanol, (ii) biofuels from algae and (iii) biofuels from wood chip; [34426]

(2) how much funding her Department allocated to research into biofuels from (a) woodchip and (b) algae in the last five years; and how much such funding she plans to allocate in each of the next four financial years; [34428]

(3) how much funding her Department has allocated to research into cellulosic ethanol in the last five years; and how much such funding she plans to allocate in each of the next four financial years. [34429]

**Norman Baker:** I have been asked to reply.

The renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) requires biofuel suppliers to report to the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) both the greenhouse gas emissions consequences of, and the sustainability of, the biofuels they supply. None of the UK biofuel reported under the RTFO in the year 2008-09 came from cellulosic ethanol, algae or woodchip. Information for the year 2009-10 is due to be published shortly.

The Department for Transport has granted approximately £6 million to the Carbon Trust over the last two years to support their advanced bioenergy research accelerator which focuses on research into biofuels from microalgae and pyrolysis. A recent assessment by the Carbon Trust calculated the potential greenhouse gas savings of microalgae biofuel compared to diesel as 78% using the RTFO methodology.

£27 million of wider Government funding has also been committed to the Sustainable Bioenergy Research Centre. The centre runs a number of programmes, including one specifically on cellulosic ethanol.

Decisions on future funding will be taken in due course but Department for Transport have no plans for direct sponsorship of any further research into these areas at this stage.

### HOME DEPARTMENT

#### Animal Experiments

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, *House of Lords*, column WA2, on animal experimentation, which minimum requirements of the new EU Directive 2010/63/EU on animal experimentation are lower than current UK requirements; in what ways such requirements are lower than current UK requirements; and if she will make a statement. [38791]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Many of the provisions of Directive 2010/63/EU are similar to current United Kingdom requirements; some are new and go further; and a few are potentially less stringent. For example, unlike the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, the directive does not provide special protection for cats, dogs and equids. In addition, some of the mandatory standards of care and accommodation set out in Annex III to the directive are lower such as cage height for rats, hamsters and gerbils; minimum floor areas for sheep, goats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, pigs, mini-pigs and equids. The directive also excludes from protection foetal forms of birds and reptiles and protects foetal forms of mammals from the last third of gestation rather than the halfway



point. The required membership and functions of the proposed animal welfare bodies in establishments are also less extensive in the directive than the current requirement for local ethical processes in the United Kingdom. This is not a full and final list of differences and further details will be included in the impact assessment currently in preparation which will be published in due course.

#### Data Sharing: Companies

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in encouraging data-sharing between companies engaged in animal testing. [39214]

**Lynne Featherstone** [holding answer 9 February 2011]: The Government support the work of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) which promotes the replacement, reduction and refinement of animals (the 3Rs) in research and testing. Over the last six years, the NC3Rs has developed a model that enables pharmaceutical and chemical companies and contract research organisations that engage in animal testing to share data and expertise. An example of the success of this approach is the removal from the international regulatory guidelines of single dose acute toxicity testing for pharmaceuticals. In 2010, the NC3Rs has continued to facilitate this cooperation by co-ordinating data sharing between 23 companies in a wide range of areas related to the development of new medicines. Further information on these activities is published on the NC3Rs website.

#### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of proposed reforms to the immigration system on the number of non-EU students applying to (a) all UK universities and (b) universities in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland. [39369]

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of her proposed restrictions on the number of student visas on levels of income of universities with courses attracting overseas students in (a) Scotland, (b) England, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland in each of the next four years. [39550]

**Damian Green:** A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January 2011. The consultation sought the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The results of the consultation and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

#### Immigration

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration legacy cases were (a) lodged and (b) dealt with in each of the last 24 months; and what the outcome of each was. [37738]

**Damian Green** [holding answer 3 February 2011]: Cases dealt with under the "legacy" programme are asylum cases that were lodged with the agency on or

prior to 5 March 2007 therefore no new legacy cases were lodged in the last 24 months. In response to part (b) of the question, the agency provides regular updates on performance, including a breakdown into grants, removals and "other" cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee and is due to report in the spring.

On 1 November the agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded 334,500 cases.

#### Members: Correspondence

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with (a) the Secretary of State for Scotland and (b) Universities Scotland on the likely effect of her proposed reform of the immigration system on the number of non-EU students at universities in Scotland. [39370]

**Damian Green:** The proposals in the consultation on reform of the student visa system were agreed by the Government as a whole. Officials at the UK Border Agency arranged a series of events with key corporate partners throughout the consultation period and Universities Scotland participated in these discussions.

#### Migrant Workers

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas under Tier 5 (religious workers) of the points-based visa scheme have been granted to applicants in each of the last three years. [39746]

**Damian Green:** Tier 5 of the points-based system (PBS) was introduced on 27 November 2008 to cover entry clearance visas for temporary workers and youth mobility. The following table shows the number of entry clearance visas issued under the Tier 5 (religious workers) category from 2008 to Quarter 3 2010.

Figures on entry clearance visas issued by category are published quarterly in table 1.1 of Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html)

Data for Quarter 4 2010 will be published on 24 February 2011 in Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Q4 2010.

Entry clearance visas<sup>1</sup> to the United Kingdom issued under PBS Tier 5—Religious, 2008 to Q3 2010<sup>2</sup>

|                   | Visas issued |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 2008 <sup>2</sup> | —            |
| 2009              | 1,040        |
| Q1 to Q3 2010     | 1,260        |

<sup>1</sup> Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0, \* = 1 or 2).

<sup>2</sup> Tier 5 of the points-based system (PBS) was introduced on 27 November 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Management information.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Carbon Offsetting

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40283]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on carbon offsetting.

### International Women's Day

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has to mark International Women's Day; and if she will make a statement. [36883]

**Lynne Featherstone:** This is a commemorative year for International Women's Day (IWD) as it marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We remain committed to celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. A range of Departments including the Government Equalities Office and the Home Office are finalising plans to observe this centenary year. My Department is mapping the activity planned across Government including the devolved Administrations to mark IWD 2011.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Prayers

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will discuss with the Procedure Committee the holding of daily prayers at a location other than in the Chamber of the House. [39520]

**Sir George Young:** I have no plans to do so.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Prosecutions

**Mr Love:** To ask the Attorney-General what powers he has to direct the Director of Public Prosecutions on individual cases under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1879. [38977]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Law Officers have no power to direct the DPP on individual cases under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1879 as it has been repealed.

Details of the current working relationship between the Attorney-General and the DPP can be found in the "Protocol between the Attorney General and the Prosecuting Departments", which was published in 2009. The Protocol can be found at the following website address:

<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk/Publications/Documents/Protocol%20between%20the%20Attorney%20General%20and%20the%20Prosecuting%20Departments.pdf>

## Public Expenditure

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Attorney-General whether he has made an assessment of the compliance of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review with the provisions set out in (a) equalities legislation and (b) the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of each Government Department; and if he will make a statement. [39523]

**The Solicitor-General:** The compliance of the outcomes of comprehensive spending reviews with equalities legislation and the Human Rights Act 1998 is a matter for the individual Government Departments concerned. There is a convention, reinforced by the ministerial code, not to disclose whether a Department has sought Law Officers' advice.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Obesity: Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussion he has had with Ministers in the Department of (a) Health and (b) Education on the effects of activity levels on obesity in children. [39005]

**Hugh Robertson:** I have regular discussions with colleagues at the Department's of Health and Education on a range of issues.

This Department is currently working with the Department for Education developing the "School Games". The games will give every school (including mainstream and special) and every pupil the opportunity to get involved, by harnessing the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to inspire a generation of young people to participate in competitive sport. The main policy aim is to drive a long-term Olympic legacy of more children doing competitive sport which we believe will help tackle childhood obesity.

### VisitEngland

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether VisitEngland has delivered to his Department a rural tourism action plan; [38997]

(2) whether VisitEngland has provided to his Department its review on seaside reports for the purposes of developing a seaside resort action plan; [38998]

(3) whether VisitEngland has provided to his Department a national research and intelligence programme for the purposes of understanding the performance of the industry. [39000]

**John Penrose:** The Tourism Action Plans being developed by VisitEngland (VE) are on schedule and will be published as soon as the Department's planned Tourism Strategy has been officially launched. The first tranche of 11 VE plans includes the Rural Tourism Action Plan and the Coastal Resorts Action Plan. Both of these drafts will be submitted to public consultation from 11 February for five weeks. The Action Plans are being

produced by VE for the tourism industry and will involve their participation, both through the public and private sectors.

VE has not provided the Department with a separate review of seaside reports but various publications have been fully considered, including the 2010 Report by Sheffield Hallam university.

A National Research and Intelligence Programme is currently being developed along with the Action Plans and will follow their timetable.

VE does however provide bespoke intelligence reports (all of which are published on the VE website). It also participates in the English Tourism Intelligence Partnership (ETIP), and stakeholders recently attended a major conference in London to define priorities and check progress of the ETIP Programme.

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects VisitEngland to publish its English national marketing strategy for domestic and international markets. [39002]

**John Penrose:** VisitEngland's National Marketing Strategy will be published once this Department's Tourism Strategy is published shortly.

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether VisitEngland has provided its plan for major events including the diamond jubilee. [39001]

**John Penrose:** VisitEngland's Major Events Plan is linked to the National Marketing Plan and is on schedule. It will be published once this Department's Tourism Plan has been published. The plan will be aimed at maximising the opportunities offered through the diamond jubilee, Torch Relay, the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games and other major events taking place in England.

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much VisitEngland spent on internal industry marketing material in 2010. [39003]

**John Penrose:** Nothing, because VisitEngland does not promote itself to the industry. Its promotional activities are consumer-facing as part of its marketing activity.

## SCOTLAND

### Universities

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with

Universities Scotland on the likely effect of proposed reforms to the immigration system on the number of non-EU students in universities in Scotland. [39368]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State has had a number of discussions with Universities Scotland, most recently on 31 January, on the proposals contained in the Government's recent consultation paper on student immigration.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what logistical planning his Department is undertaking for the withdrawal of (a) British personnel and (b) military equipment from Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [38843]

**Dr Fox:** The Ministry of Defence is necessarily focused on how best we can achieve the transfer of security to the Afghan National Security Forces by the end of 2014. As part of this work we are considering the scope and shape of the UK's enduring relationship with Afghanistan and what the likely role and composition of forces should be beyond 2015, including the logistical implications. This advice will be presented to the National Security Council in due course.

### Air Force: Military Bases

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which RAF bases have listed buildings and scheduled monuments within their grounds. [39226]

**Mr Robathan:** The following RAF bases have listed buildings and/or scheduled monuments within their grounds: RAF Benson, RAF Bentley Priory, RAF Brampton, RAF Cosford, RAF Cranwell, RAF Halton, RAF Henlow, RAF High Wycombe, RAF Honington, RAF Leuchars, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Lyneham, RAF Neatishead, RAF Northolt, RAF Scampton, RAF Spadeadam and RAF Valley.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which RAF bases in the UK are on (a) owned land, (b) leased land and (c) land with legal rights; and what the annual land cost is in each case. [39227]

**Mr Robathan:** The status of RAF bases in the UK for owned land, leased land or land with legal rights and annual land costs, are shown in the following table:

|                           | Type of land holding         | Annual land cost (£ per annum) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| RAF Benson                | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Boulmer               | Part Freehold—Part Leasehold | 20,000                         |
| RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Brize Norton          | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Coningsby             | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Cottesmore            | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Cosford               | Freehold                     | 0                              |



|                    | Type of land holding         | Annual land cost (£ per annum) |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| RAF Cranwell       | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Fylingdales    | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Halton         | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF High Wycombe   | Part Freehold—Part Leasehold | 0                              |
| RAF Honington      | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Kinloss        | Freehold                     | 4,615                          |
| RAF Leeming        | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Leuchars       | Freehold                     | 150                            |
| RAF Linton on Ouse | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Lossiemouth    | Freehold                     | 179,600                        |
| RAF Lyneham        | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Marham         | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Northolt       | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Odiham         | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Shawbury       | Freehold                     | 16,800                         |
| RAF Spadeadam      | Leasehold                    | 1,000                          |
| RAF St Mawgan      | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Valley         | Freehold                     | 2,100                          |
| RAF Waddington     | Freehold                     | 0                              |
| RAF Wittering      | Freehold                     | 0                              |

#### Defence: Procurement

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on future involvement in multinational defence equipment acquisition; and if he will make a statement. [39715]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence's policy remains as set out in the strategic defence and security review. In working with other countries, we will generally favour bilateral equipment collaboration or off the shelf purchases because these are potentially more straightforward than multilateral arrangements.

|                                  | MOD/armed forces | Trading funds | Non-departmental public bodies |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Press officers                   | 112              | 8             | 1                              |
| Internal communications officers | 52               | 8             | 0                              |
| External communications officers | 365              | 26            | 0                              |
| Communications strategy officers | 67               | 2.5           | 0                              |
| Other                            | 101              | 7             | 3                              |

#### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which persons not employed by Government departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39270]

**Mr Robathan:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

#### Nimrod Aircraft

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the state of airworthiness was of each dismantled Nimrod MRA4 aircraft prior to its dismantling; and what faults impacting upon airworthiness were found during the last refit of each such aircraft. [38920]

**Nick Harvey:** At the time of the decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service, none of the nine aircraft was airworthy.

During the development of the aircraft, a number of design issues had been identified and were being addressed by BAE Systems. The identification in September 2010 of a potential safety issue associated with an uninsulated

#### Departmental Information Officers

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38958]

**Mr Robathan [holding answer 9 February 2011]:** Communication of defence is important to support the reputation of the armed forces, understanding of military operations and other activities and to support recruitment. These figures include both military and civilian posts throughout defence, including armed forces' commands and operational theatres. Savings have been made across the communications area during the course of the current financial year and further substantial reductions are planned. The latest figures for the numbers involved in specialist communications roles are for financial year 2009-10 and were produced in support of a Cabinet Office led exercise to capture such information across Government. They are as follows:

section of a hot air pipe, caused two of the aircraft (PA04 and PA05) to be grounded. None of the aircraft would have flown until this issue had been resolved.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship places for people aged (a) 16 to 18 years and (b) 18 to 24 years he has allocated funding for in the academic year 2011-12. [39037]

**Mr Hayes:** Apprenticeships are funded by both the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (19+) and the Department for Education (16-18). The Government are strongly committed to investment in apprenticeships for people of all ages. We are determined to take real action to improve and expand the apprenticeships programme and create more apprenticeship opportunities than ever before.

Funding for apprenticeships will increase to over £1,400 million in the 2011-12 financial year: £799 million for 16 to 18-year-olds; £605 million for those aged 19 and over<sup>1</sup>. For 16 to 18-year-olds, the YPLA document "16 to 19 Funding Statement" (December 2010) states that funding will be sufficient to have 133,500 apprentice starts in the 2011/12 academic year. For adults (19 years and over), our indicative forecast is for 227,100 starts in 2011/12<sup>2</sup>. This means we are committed to have funding in place to train over 360,000 apprentices (at all ages) in the 2011/12 academic year.

Funding for adult apprenticeships (19+) is not further differentiated by age and there are no specific allocations for the 18-24 age group.

<sup>1</sup> 16-18 figures: 16-19 Funding Statement, YPLA (December 2010); 19+ figures: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, BIS (November 2010).

<sup>2</sup> Hansard [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cml110125/text/110125w0004.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cml110125/text/110125w0004.htm)

### Business: Government Assistance

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in (a) Newcastle and (b) England received funding under the Grant for Business Investment scheme in each of the last five years. [39780]

**Mr Prisk:** Grant for Business Investment (GBI) was introduced in October 2008. The following table thus includes data for the Selective Finance for Investment in England scheme, its predecessor. For Newcastle we have used the Newcastle local authority area. The table shows the number of offers made to businesses in Newcastle and the number of offers accepted in England over the last five financial years.

| Financial year | Awards in Newcastle | Awards in England |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2005/06        | 10                  | 503               |
| 2006/07        | 5                   | 464               |
| 2007/08        | 11                  | 402               |

### Departmental Location

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for local offices of his Department in each region; where he expects each to be located; and if he will make a statement. [39321]

**Mr Prisk:** It is important that BIS has a policy presence outside of Whitehall so we can communicate effectively with local enterprise partnerships, businesses and other organisations.

The network is still in the early stages of development, but it is expected there will be six small teams in different parts of the country, although locations have not yet been confirmed.

The teams will support BIS's overall objectives, particularly those relating to growth, jobs and rebalancing the economy.

This response replicates the response to PQ2010/3769 which asked a similar question.

### Green Investment Bank

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 620W, on the Green Investment Bank, when he expects the Government to announce decisions on the asset sales which will provide proceeds for the Green Investment Bank. [39330]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government are pushing forward their asset sale programme and expect to be able to launch new sales across a number of assets over the coming months, with proceeds expected towards the end of 2011. This should therefore fit with the timetable for the Green Investment Bank to be making its first investments during 2012. The £1 billion DEL funding allocation is for investments to be made in 2013/14.

To give information on expected proceeds from individual sales would prejudice the Government's commercial position in ongoing and future sale processes. However, at an aggregate level, the Government are confident that asset sales they are considering will be sufficient to provide significant additional funding above the £1 billion allocated from departmental budgets. They will make further announcements on this funding stream in due course.

### Sheffield Forgemasters: Loans

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any concerns were raised with him by (a) his officials and (b) other individuals and organisations in respect of the likely effects on the supply chain of his decision to withdraw the loan to Sheffield Forgemasters (i) before and (ii) after the loan was withdrawn. [38471]

**Mr Prisk:** Both before and after the Government's decision not to proceed with the loan to Sheffield Forgemasters, the Department received a small number representations from MPs, organisations and members of the public expressing concern about the Government's decision. Some, but not all, of these referred to the nuclear supply chain.

#### Tobacco: Sales

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on businesses of removing tobacco point-of-sale displays from retail outlets.

[36662]

**Mr Prisk:** Powers to prohibit the permanent display of tobacco products in retail outlets are contained in the Health Act 2009 and the Department of Health (DH) is the lead Government Department. DH is responsible for assessing the impact of the net cost to business. BIS is in discussions on the impact of DH's proposals subject to the independent scrutiny by the Regulatory Policy Committee and then consideration by the Reducing Regulation Committee.

#### UK Trade & Investment

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason UK Trade & Investment did not include Israel in its promotional material about the forthcoming middle east trade initiative; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement.

[39736]

**Mr Prisk:** The first tranche of leaflets to market the Partner ME 2011 event listed those countries for which we had confirmed participation at the time of printing. We have since had confirmation that Israel will be represented and web marketing material has been updated. Israel's participation is now included on all marketing material for this event.

### EDUCATION

#### Children's Centres: Finance

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions his Department has had with Hammersmith and Fulham Council on funding for children's centres.

[33290]

**Sarah Teather:** There is enough money in the recently announced early intervention grant (EIG) to maintain the existing network of Sure Start children's centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need.

I am not aware of any direct communication between the Department for Education and Hammersmith and Fulham local authority on funding for children's centres. Our agents, Together for Children (TFC) report they have had routine discussions about the way in which Hammersmith and Fulham deliver its children's centre programme.

#### Children's Centres: Stoke on Trent

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated to children's centres in Stoke-on-Trent in (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11.

[27834]

**Sarah Teather [holding answer 9 November 2010]:** In the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 the Department allocated revenue and capital funding for children's centres to Stoke-on-Trent as follows:

| Financial year | Children's centres and ex-Sure Start local programme revenue | Sure Start children's centres capital | Total      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
|                | £                                                            | £                                     |            |
| 2009-10        | 7,345,162                                                    | 602,863                               | 7,948,025  |
| 2010-11        | 7,583,126                                                    | 372,288                               | 7,955,414  |
| Total          | 14,928,288                                                   | 975,151                               | 15,903,439 |

These funding strands are paid as part of the wider Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. Children's centre allocations are not individually ring-fenced within the grant and are therefore notional. Local authorities have the freedom to spend flexibly to best meet local objectives.

#### College of Social Work

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has reached an agreement with Unison on membership of the College of Social Work.

[35708]

**Tim Loughton:** Government are supporting the establishment of a college of social work in line with the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force for an organisation to articulate and promote the interests of good social work. It will give the profession strong, independent leadership; a clear voice in public debate, policy development and policy delivery; and strong ownership of professional social work standards. The Department does not seek to influence any partnership agreements the college might establish once it emerges from the current development stage and has not entered into any agreements on membership with Unison or any other organisation.

#### College of Social Work: Social Care Institute for Excellence

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Social Care Institute for Excellence will have a role in the running of the College of Social Work.

[36269]

**Tim Loughton [holding answer 26 January 2011]:** The Social Care Institute for Excellence has been asked to facilitate the establishment of the College of Social Work, providing administrative support and expertise in a developmental phase of two years. Neither Government nor SCIE seek to influence the form or function of the emerging college. SCIE will have no role in the governance of the college that emerges.



### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff in his Department are employed on fixed-term contracts; and what the job title of each is. [34841]

**Tim Loughton** [holding answer 10 January 2011]: The number of staff in the Department employed on fixed-term contracts and their titles (by grade) is set out in the following table:

| Grade band               | Total |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Executive assistant      | 26    |
| Executive officer        | 1     |
| Higher executive officer | 48    |
| Senior executive officer | 12    |
| Grade 7                  | 5     |
| Grade 6                  | 1     |
| Senior civil service     | 1     |
| 1 Less than five         |       |

### Disability: Children

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future status of ring-fenced funding provided to local authorities to support children with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [27256]

**Sarah Teather** [holding answer 29 November 2010]: Funding for disabled children will be delivered to local authorities through the Early Intervention Grant. The Early Intervention Grant (EIG) is a new funding stream created for local authorities to invest in early intervention for the most vulnerable children, young people and families, bringing together funding for a number of early intervention and preventative services, including those which relate to disabled children.

We have announced that we will provide over £800 million through EIG to support short breaks for disabled children over the spending review period.

This figure represents a small increase in the levels of funding which were provided to local councils for this activity in 2010-11, and includes the previously announced funding to be provided from Child Trust Fund money.

There will be no ring-fenced funding for local councils to support children with disabilities in this coming spending review period. The Government previously committed to reducing the ring fences around central Government funding to allow local areas more autonomy and flexibility to prioritise services locally.

### Pre-school Education: Disadvantaged

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure the provision of 15 hours of free nursery education for disadvantaged children aged two years. [35532]

**Sarah Teather:** Through the Education Bill we will seek to amend Section 7 of the Childcare Act (2006), so that through regulations we can introduce a statutory entitlement to 15 hours of free early education a week for disadvantaged two-year-olds. Funding of £64 million/£223 million is being provided to allow local authorities

to offer free places to disadvantaged two-year-olds over the next two years. This will enable authorities to build towards the statutory entitlement which we plan to introduce in 2013. Funding will rise to £380 million a year by 2014-15.

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39272]

**Robert Neill:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

#### EU Grants and Loans: North East England

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 382W, on EU grants and loans: North East, what the monetary value is of the funding to the North East England 2007-13 European Regional Development Competitiveness Programme that remains uncommitted. [39090]

**Robert Neill:** The North East has an ERDF allocation of €375.7 million. €236.6 million has been committed, leaving €139.1 million uncommitted as at 6 February 2011.

#### European Regional Development Fund

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will chair the European Regional Development Fund programme monitoring committees in each region from March 2011. [39148]

**Robert Neill:** We are committed to giving localities and communities greater control and greater influence over the programmes and services delivered in their areas. To help achieve this, I have decided that we should restructure existing Programme Monitoring Committees as Local Management Committees which can ensure that, within the parameters already agreed with the EU, local people and businesses can influence the shape of the programme. These committees give strategic direction to the operational programmes and ensure that they are delivered compliantly and that outputs are delivered. I will be looking to ensure that the local representatives from across the public, private, voluntary and community and local authority sectors are represented on the Local Management Committees.

I am committed to ensuring my Department plays a key role in ensuring that the delivery of ERDF remains compliant with EU regulations. To deliver that, I have decided that a DCLG director will chair the Local Management Committees. But to underline our commitment to localism, I have also decided that a significant figure from the local community should be appointed as a deputy chair of the Local Management

Committee, to ensure that the ERDF programmes are overseen and shaped by local people. We will work with local communities to determine who should occupy this role.

We will be working closely with the existing membership of the Programme Monitoring Committees and other local representatives to determine the practical details of the changes I want to make. That will include the role of the Local Management Committees, how the deputy chair and membership will be selected and what underpinning arrangements they will need.

#### Housing: Armed Forces

**Alison Seaback:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what representations he has received from local housing authorities on the likely effects of returning personnel from overseas military bases as a result of changes announced in the strategic defence and security review; [39056]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on local housing authorities of the return of military personnel as a result of proposals to close bases overseas announced in the strategic defence and security review; [39057]

(3) when he last had discussions with the Ministry of Defence on the effects on private and public housing sectors of the return of military personnel posted overseas as a result of changes announced in the strategic defence and security review. [39058]

**Andrew Stunell:** Responsibility for addressing current and future housing needs rests with individual local authorities; the Department made no assessment of the possible effects of the return of overseas military personnel on local housing authorities.

The Government are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them. The New Homes Bonus Scheme, announced by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government on 12 November 2010, will create a simple, transparent and permanent incentive to increase the supply of new homes.

The Department and MOD continue to discuss matters of shared interest. We are not aware of representations from local housing authorities on the likely effects of returning personnel from overseas military bases, as a result of changes announced in the strategic defence and security review. We would not expect to receive such representations before MOD's plans on returning personnel have been developed and finalised. In considering relocation of military personnel from overseas military bases as a result of the review, accommodation would be taken into account.

#### Housing: Prices

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of domestic dwellings valued at £2 million or higher in each (a) local authority, (b) parliamentary constituency and (c) region. [39167]

**Robert Neill:** The Department has not made an estimate of the number of domestic dwellings valued at £2 million or higher. This estimate would require figures on the individual value of all domestic dwellings in each area. Such data are not held by the Department. Estimating the current capital value of individual domestic dwellings in each area would require a valuation/revaluation exercise. The Coalition Agreement rules out a domestic revaluation in this Parliament.

#### Housing: Sustainable Development

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition his Department uses for sustainable housing. [39020]

**Andrew Stunell:** There is no single definition of sustainable housing as many different factors will bear on the sustainability of any particular housing development. The Code for Sustainable Homes is the national voluntary standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes, and applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The code measures the sustainability of a new home against nine categories of sustainable design, and covers energy and carbon dioxide, water use, materials, surface water runoff, waste, pollution, health and well-being, management, and ecology.

#### Local Government Finance: Sunderland

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the change in (a) the amount of formula grant, (b) the amount of specific or area-based grants and (c) the total central government grant to Sunderland city council is between 2010-11 and 2011-12. [39394]

**Robert Neill:** Change in central Government funding to be provided to Sunderland city council in 2011-12 on a like for like basis is as follows:

Reduction in formula grant will be £20.1 million

Reduction in overall revenue spending power will be £28.0 million (8.8%) with a reduction of £12.2 million in specific/area-based grants.

Full information on the basis of these calculations can be accessed on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

<http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/spfull1s.xls>

#### Public Houses

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will make an assessment of the (a) economic and (b) social factors leading to trends in the level of closure of (i) pubs and (ii) clubs; [39010]

(2) if he will assess the effects on social cohesion of trends in the frequency of visits to (a) pubs and (b) clubs. [39015]

**Robert Neill:** The Government support the development and maintenance of pubs that understand and respond to the needs of their local community, and my officials hold regular meetings with a variety of organisations form the pub and brewing trade to discuss their particular concerns.

Reports following Government research on alcohol taxation and pricing issues are available on the Treasury and Home Office websites respectively.

The Government have in place a package of measures designed to help community pubs, including:

aiming to ensure through the Localism Bill that community organisations have a fair chance to bid to take over and run assets and facilities that are important to them, including local pubs;

the Department will undertake a public consultation into the issue of restrictive covenants on pubs, with a focus on the impact they have on local communities. This will be completed in the summer of 2011;

communities interested in taking ownership of their local pub can seek advice from the Government-funded Asset Transfer Unit and the Plunkett Foundation;

helping firms with business rates: making small business rate relief automatic, introducing a more generous small business rate relief scheme for a year from October, and giving councils powers to levy discretionary business rate discounts—which could, for example, be used to support local pubs;

the Home Office announced on 18 January the Government's intention to ban the sale of alcohol below cost by setting a lower limit of duty plus VAT, as an important first step in delivering the Government's commitment to ban the sale of alcohol below cost;

scrapping the previous government's plans to introduce a 10% above inflation rise in the tax on cider; and

reforming licensing rules to make it easier to play live music in local pubs.

#### Runaway Children

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on dealing with children who run away from home. [39782]

**Andrew Stunell:** This Department has not provided any specific guidance to local authorities on dealing with children who run away from home. However, guidance has been provided by the Department for Education.

We are working closely with colleagues in the Department for Education to prevent and tackle youth homelessness and to support young people to live independently. In addition, the Department for Education is represented on the cross-government Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness which focuses on addressing the complex causes of homelessness and rough sleeping.

#### TREASURY

##### Debts: Advisory Services

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the ending of the Financial Inclusion Fund on provision of debt advice after March 2011. [39024]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the FIF, including the face-to-face debt advice service.

The Government remain committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to

improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

##### Departmental Photography

**Kate Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on photography since May 2010. [34543]

**Justine Greening:** The Treasury spent £206 on photography between 1 May 2010 and 31 January 2011.

##### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39266]

**Justine Greening:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites for business purposes, subject to them having a minimum level of security clearances. For security reasons, it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

##### Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the additional revenue that would be raised by the introduction of a machine games duty in each of the first three years following its introduction. [38510]

**Justine Greening:** The introduction of machine games duty is not intended to raise additional revenue. It will replace the revenue from amusement machine license duty and VAT currently charged on machines.

##### Food: Prices

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is taking steps to curb commodity speculation for the purposes of limiting increases in food prices in the developing world. [39525]

**Mr Hoban:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Streatham (Mr Umunna), by the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 528-29W.

##### Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the level of gold and foreign currency reserves. [39700]

**Justine Greening:** The level of the UK's official holdings of reserves is released on a monthly basis by HM Treasury and can be found at:

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press\\_12\\_11.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_12_11.htm)

As of the end of January 2011 the UK's gross reserves stood at \$82.04 billion (£51.23 billion).



### Income Tax: Football

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions HM Revenue and Customs has had with professional football clubs on the payment of income tax on payments to professional footballers for image-rights. [39713]

**Justine Greening:** HMRC has a statutory duty of confidentiality to its customers and does not comment on individual cases. However HMRC is well aware of attempts to use image rights to avoid tax and will challenge these arrangements where appropriate. The taxation of image rights is a complex area where the tax treatment will very much depend on the facts of the particular case.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of income tax which would have been received by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last 10 financial years had payments to professional footballers in respect of image-rights been treated as income. [39714]

**Justine Greening:** HMRC does not hold these data.

### Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of taxpayers earning £100,000 and over in each (a) local authority, (b) parliamentary constituency and (c) region in 2011-12; [39179]

(2) how many taxpayers would be affected by lowering the threshold for the additional rate of income tax to £100,000 in each (a) local authority, (b)

parliamentary constituency and (c) region in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14, (iv) 2014-15 and (v) 2015-16; [39180]

(3) if he will estimate the effect on levels of revenue of lowering the threshold for the additional rate of income tax to £100,000 in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14, (d) 2014-15 and (e) 2015-16. [39182]

**Mr Gauke:** The following table shows the estimated change to income tax liabilities from lowering the threshold for the additional rate of income tax to £100,000.

|         | Estimated change in income tax liabilities (£ million) |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2011-12 | 1,200                                                  |
| 2012-13 | 1,300                                                  |
| 2013-14 | 1,500                                                  |
| 2014-15 | 1,600                                                  |
| 2015-16 | 1,800                                                  |

Estimates take account of behavioural responses, such as changes in work effort, increased tax planning, avoidance or migration motivated by tax rate changes. These effects, and associated revenue costs, are highly uncertain. It should be noted that the tapered withdrawal of the personal allowance occurs over an income range after deductions, starting at £100,000.

The figures refer to accrued liabilities and do not reflect the timing of receipts.

The number of UK taxpayers with total income in excess of £100,000 in each region in 2011-12 is shown in the following table. This table also shows the estimated number of taxpayers who would be affected by a reduction in the additional rate threshold to £100,000, where their income after deductions and allowances exceeds £100,000.

| Region                    | Total income greater than £100,000 | Income after deductions and allowances greater than £100,000 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           |                                    | Number (thousand)                                            |
| North East                | 12                                 | 10                                                           |
| North West and Merseyside | 47                                 | 37                                                           |
| Yorkshire and the Humber  | 34                                 | 27                                                           |
| East Midlands             | 33                                 | 26                                                           |
| West Midlands             | 39                                 | 31                                                           |
| East of England           | 79                                 | 65                                                           |
| London                    | 180                                | 152                                                          |
| South East                | 155                                | 127                                                          |
| South West                | 44                                 | 35                                                           |
| Wales                     | 14                                 | 10                                                           |
| Scotland                  | 44                                 | 34                                                           |
| Northern Ireland          | 11                                 | 9                                                            |
| Address abroad/unknown    | 13                                 | 12                                                           |
| United Kingdom            | 706                                | 576                                                          |

The number of taxpayers who would be affected in later years is likely to increase gradually over time, reflecting growth in incomes relative to a fixed additional rate threshold.

It is not possible to produce reliable estimates for local authorities and parliamentary constituencies due to small sample sizes at these levels of geography.

Estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes and projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's autumn forecast 2010.

### Income Tax: Tax Yields

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income tax was generated from those with an income of (a) £6,475 to £7,475, (b) £7,476 to £8,475, (c) £8,476 to £9,475 and (d) £9,476 to £10,000 on each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [39050]

**Mr Hoban:** The following table shows the estimated income tax liabilities generated from 2006-07 to 2010-11,

for the income bands specified above. Income after deduction is defined as total income minus pension contributions and charitable contributions.

| Income after deductions | Total tax |         |         |         |         |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                         | 2006-07   | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
| £6,475-£7,475           | 228       | 190     | 186     | 96      | 94      |
| £7,476-£8,475           | 441       | 365     | 390     | 290     | 290     |
| £8,476-£9,475           | 686       | 592     | 569     | 470     | 467     |
| £9,476-£10,000          | 466       | 402     | 376     | 312     | 311     |
| All                     | 1,820     | 1,550   | 1,520   | 1,170   | 1,160   |

Tax liabilities decrease primarily due to increases in the personal allowance, from £5,035 in 2006-07 to £6,475 in 2010-11.

Estimated figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes. Estimated figures for 2008-09 onwards are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes and projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's autumn forecast 2010.

#### National Insurance Contributions

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has met representatives of the Federation of Small Businesses to discuss the regional national insurance contribution holiday. [39115]

**Mr Gauke:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. However, a list of meetings with external stakeholders is published on the Treasury website. This list can be found at:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister\\_hospitality.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm)

#### Pensions

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of raising the trivial pension threshold. [39451]

**Mr Hoban:** At present, an individual who is aged 60 or over and has less than £18,000 in total pensions wealth is permitted to take all of their pension savings as a lump sum, which is known as 'trivial commutation'.

As stated in a previous answer to my hon. Friend, the median pension wealth held by individuals aged 16 or over in 2006-08 was £6,500 for members of a defined contribution occupational pension scheme, and £12,000 for members of a personal pension plan<sup>1</sup>. On this basis, the Government feel that the £18,000 limit for trivial commutation remains an appropriate threshold.

The Government published a call for evidence on early access to pension saving in December 2010, which also invited views on whether there was a case for introducing further flexibility in the trivial commutation rules. The call for evidence is open for submissions until 25 February 2011<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> "ONS Wealth and Assets Survey 2008/09", table 6.3.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult\\_early\\_access\\_pension\\_savings.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_early_access_pension_savings.htm)

#### Public Expenditure

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the underlying figures of Chart 1.1 published on his Department's flickr photostream on consolidation of the cyclically-adjusted current budget. [39104]

**Justine Greening:** Chart 1.1 on the Treasury flickr photostream

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/hmtreasury/5217567353/>

was published following the OBR's Economic and Fiscal Outlook in November 2010. The chart updates the same chart illustrating the forecast consolidation in the cyclically-adjusted current budget that was published as chart 1.3 in the June Budget and also by the previous Administration.

The data underlying the chart are the forecast for cyclically-adjusted current borrowing as at the March 2010 Budget, the June 2010 Budget and the OBR's Economic and Fiscal Outlook in November 2010:

|                   |                                                             | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| March 2010 Budget | Cyclically-adjusted surplus on current budget               | -4.8    | -4.6    | -3.4    | -2.5    | -1.8    | -1.3    | —       | —       |
|                   | Change in the cyclically-adjusted surplus on current budget | —       | 0.2     | 1.2     | 0.9     | 0.7     | 0.5     | 0.7     | 0.7     |
| June 2010 Budget  | Cyclically-adjusted surplus on current budget               | -5.3    | -4.8    | -3.2    | -1.9    | -0.7    | 0.3     | 0.8     | —       |
|                   | Change in the cyclically-adjusted surplus on current budget | —       | 0.5     | 1.6     | 1.3     | 1.2     | 1.0     | 0.5     | —       |
| OBR's EFO 2010    | Cyclically-adjusted surplus on current budget               | -5.3    | -4.7    | -3.3    | -1.8    | -0.5    | 0.5     | 0.9     | —       |

|                                                             | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Change in the cyclically-adjusted surplus on current budget | —       | 0.6     | 1.4     | 1.5     | 1.3     | 1       | 0.4     | —       |

<sup>1</sup> This was an assumption as to the consolidation in the cyclically-adjusted current budget at the March 2010 Budget.

### Revenue and Customs

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to publish its (a) change and delivery plan and (b) business implementation plan. [39504]

**Mr Hoban:** In response to part (a) of the question, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will publish its Change Plan in February 2011.

In response to part (b) of the question relating to the business implementation plan, HMRC will publish its business implementation plans in April 2011.

### Stamp Duty Land Tax

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised from stamp duty land tax on residential properties (a) up to £150,000, (b) from £150,001 to £250,000, (c) from £250,001 to £500,000, (d) from £500,001 to £1 million, (e) over £1 million and (f) in total in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [37794]

**Justine Greening:** Estimates of revenue raised from stamp duty land tax on residential property by stamp duty land tax price bands are given at:

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp\\_duty/table15-3-0910.xls](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-3-0910.xls)

### Taxation

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission a study on the effect on the economy of implementing a flat tax. [39245]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government have no plans to conduct a study on the implementation of a flat tax.

### Taxation: Members

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the online submission facility for self-assessed tax returns is not available to hon. Members. [39315]

**Mr Gauke:** The vast majority of self-assessment taxpayers can take advantage of HMRC's online services to file their tax return via the internet. However, a small proportion of SA taxpayers (including MPs) need to complete special dedicated pages. These forms are not available online since it would be disproportionately costly to develop the links to departmental computer systems.

### VAT: Charities

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward proposals to bring charitable providers of health care services within the provisions of section 41 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994. [39508]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government have no plans to bring forward such proposals. Section 41 of the VAT Act provides limited recovery of VAT for Government Departments, including the NHS, in respect of certain outsourced services. The VAT which is refunded to the NHS and other bodies is fully taken into account as part of those bodies' overall funding arrangements, and the schemes that are in place represent the most efficient means of delivering this part of their funding.

### VAT: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation he undertook with the business community in Northern Ireland in advance of the rise in value added tax. [34190]

**Mr Gauke:** Treasury Ministers consult Northern Ireland Ministers on a range of issues on a regular basis. Treasury Ministers and officials also have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of the policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Kate Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the estimated savings to be made from reforms of tax credits and housing benefit take account of the changes to housing benefit entitlement arising from reductions in tax credit entitlements; [32922]

(2) what plans he has to monitor the effects on levels of public expenditure on housing of reductions in expenditure on tax credits; [32923]

(3) what estimate he has made of the effects on levels of housing benefit expenditure of the reduction in the proportion of child care costs covered by the child care element of working tax credit. [32924]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 212W. Full details of the savings from reforms to tax credits and housing benefit are available in the published document 'Spending Review 2010 policy costings', available on HM Treasury's website:

[http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010\\_policycostings.pdf](http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf)

There are no plans to monitor and record expenditure on housing benefit which is attributable to changes in the budget for tax credits.

### JUSTICE

#### Arrest Warrants

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many arrest warrant applications were made to district judges by private individuals under laws relating



to universal jurisdiction between 1 January 1995 and 1 January 2010; how many such applications were granted; and how many prosecutions taken in consequence resulted in a conviction. [39344]

**Mr Blunt:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), to my hon. Friend the Member for Enfield North (Nick de Bois) on 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 204W, information about applications for arrest warrants in respect of universal jurisdiction offences is not recorded, but staff at the City of Westminster magistrates court are aware of such applications in the last 10 years. It is public knowledge that two applications were granted, but in neither case was the warrant executed.

### Bribery Act 2010

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to implement in full the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010. [39095]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I am working on the statutory guidance required to make that guidance practical and useful for legitimate business and trade. It will be published once I am confident that it addresses the legitimate concerns of all those who took part in the consultation process. The Ministry of Justice's guidance will be published alongside joint prosecution guidance issued by the Director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions. This will be followed by a three month notice period before full implementation of the Act.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what evidence he has evaluated on the effect of implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 on the competitiveness of British business; and if he will place in the Library a copy of such evidence he has evaluated. [39096]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** An impact assessment was published by the then Secretary of State for Justice in 2009 for the introduction of the Bribery Bill. We have obtained further representations on the subject in the course of the consultation process.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent meetings he has had with representatives of (a) business organisations and (b) businesses to discuss the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; and who was present on each occasion. [39097]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I met representatives of the CBI, Multi-National Chairmen's Group and the International Chamber of Commerce UK on 19 January, the Federation of Small Businesses on 31 January and the British Chamber of Commerce on 2 February to discuss the Bribery Act and the guidance under section 9 to commercial organisations about preventing bribery.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last met representatives of charities to discuss the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. [39098]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I met representatives of Transparency International UK and the Bond Governance and anti-corruption groups which represent non-governmental organisations and charities working on international development on 24 January.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he sought legal advice on his decision to delay the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; [39672]

(2) by what date he expects to complete his review of the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; what criteria he plans to use in the review; what estimate he has made of the likely cost of the review; whether the review will receive submissions from external organisations; when he expects to inform Parliament of the conclusions of the review; and whether the report of the review will be published. [39705]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Government are committed to the implementation of the Bribery Act. I am determined to ensure that it is implemented in a way which tackles corruption but does not impose unnecessary cost and uncertainty on legitimate business and trade. I am therefore working on the statutory guidance required to make that guidance practical and useful for legitimate business and trade. It will be published once I am confident that it addresses the legitimate concerns of all those who took part in the consultation process. As is usual, this work is informed by legal advice, where appropriate.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with (a) the Confederation of British Industry, (b) the Institute of Directors, (c) the British Chambers of Commerce and (d) the Engineering Employers Federation on his decision to delay the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. [39673]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I have met a number of stakeholders including the CBI, the BCC and representatives of the NGO community to discuss the Bribery Act and the guidance we are producing. My decision to delay implementation of the Act was not taken as a result of these meetings, but because I was not yet satisfied that the guidance was sufficiently practical and comprehensive to be published.

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39261]

**Mr Djanogly:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Ministry of Justice sites, subject to the usual security checks.

This mainly applies to employees of firms contracted to provide services but also includes the Judiciary who are independent from and not employed by government.

For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

### National Offender Management Service: Operating Costs

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the National Offender Management Service headquarters in each of the last five years. [39233]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency was established from April 2008. There are therefore no comparable figures for the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08.

The NOMS Agency accounts for 2009-10 show, on a comparable basis, figures for both 2008-09 and 2009-10 for headquarters and policy as follows:

|         | £ million |
|---------|-----------|
| 2008-09 | 151       |
| 2009-10 | 255       |

The year on year difference includes £113 million which is due to the accounting treatment of the impairment of assets.

### Prisons

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the results of the prison estates review; and if he will make a statement. [39232]

**Mr Blunt:** In 2009, an organisational review was begun of prison works departments. However, this review became part of a larger review following the merger of the National Offender Management Service Agency Estate Capacity Directorate and the Ministry of Justice Estates Directorate in April 2010. A new structure at national level has been announced.

No decisions have yet been made about regional or local structures or about the how the estate will be managed in the longer term. Current reporting lines for local works staff and regional estate managers remain unchanged. Staff and trade unions will be consulted about any proposals for change.

### Prisons: Construction

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the (a) direct and (b) indirect costs to the public purse of the commissioning process for the suspended private finance initiative prison project at Runwell, Essex to date. [39234]

**Mr Blunt:** The information requested is set out as follows.

#### Indirect costs

Approximately £0.6 million has been spent on financial and legal advice for the establishment of a PFI framework for potential new 1,500 place prisons, following the selection in April 2009.

In early 2008 and April 2009 other indirect costs included those related to the initial site search process and pre-application town planning meetings for both Runwell in Essex and Beam Park West in the London borough of Dagenham. The site search at that time was for locations for up to five 1,500 place prisons and site search costs relating to individual sites, such as Runwell, cannot be individually identified.

#### Direct costs

In addition to indirect costs, approximately £1.5 million has been spent on the Runwell project, on the town planning application, legal, consultation and technical advice since the site was identified in April 2009.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the (a) direct and (b) indirect costs to the public purse of the commissioning process for the previously planned 600-bed prison project at Maghull, Merseyside to date; [39235]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of compensation due to the contractor for the previously planned 600-bed prison project at Maghull, Merseyside; and if he will make a statement. [39236]

**Mr Blunt:** Direct costs for the Maghull site since its purchase in 1998 are approximately £9 million. This includes site purchase costs, site security and obtaining planning consent for a prison. A further £7 million has been spent on obtaining detailed planning permission, discharging the planning conditions and demolishing the buildings that were on the site.

Indirect costs consisting of external professional advice (including legal, financial, insurance and technical advisors, as well as Partnerships UK), for the procurement of prisons at Maghull and Belmarsh West were approximately £2.4 million. As the tendering process for both prisons was run simultaneously, a breakdown of the cost of external professional advice for Maghull alone is not available.

Discussions about possible compensation are under way with the contractor of the former development at Maghull and related details are therefore commercial in confidence.

### Social Impact Bonds

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable the National Offender Management Service has set for the Social Impact Bond pilot. [39230]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice has commissioned Social Finance Limited to run the Social Impact Bond at Peterborough prison for a maximum period of six years.

The Social Impact Bond started working with offenders on 16 August 2010. The project will work with three 1,000-offender cohorts, and the final cohort will close when it numbers 1,000 offenders, or in August 2016 if the capacity is not reached. The assessment of reconviction rates for this cohort will begin 18 months after this point, and by February 2018 at the latest.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the evaluation of the National Offender Management Service Social Impact Bond pilot; and if he will make a statement. [39231]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice will publish an initial 'lessons learned' assessment of the Social Impact Bond pilot by May 2011.

An interim evaluation report will be published after the reconviction rate for the first cohort has been calculated. The first cohort will close when it numbers 1,000 offenders, or in August 2012 if the capacity is not reached. The independent assessment of reconviction rates will commence 18 months after the cohort closes, and by February 2014 at the latest.

A full evaluation of the Social Impact Bond will be published after the pilot has concluded, and the reconviction rate for the final cohort has been calculated. This assessment of reconviction rates will commence 18 months after the final cohort closes, and by February 2018 at the latest.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding has been allocated to the National Offender Management Service to date to pilot the Social Impact Bond. [39237]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice has allocated a total of £3 million of funding for the Social Impact Bond pilot, from which outcome payments will be made if the Bond has significant success in reducing reconvictions of offenders. The Big Lottery Fund, in its role of supporting innovation, will provide approximately £5 million of further funding.

All implementation and operating costs for the pilot will be met through social investment raised by Social Finance Limited. The Ministry of Justice will only fund outcome payments if the pilot achieves a sufficient reduction in reconviction events. If the required reduction is not achieved, no payment will be made.

## TRANSPORT

### Biofuels

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to review his Department's policy on use of biofuels in the transport network; and what the (a) timing and (b) scope of the review will be; [37219]

(2) when he expects the EU directive on renewable energy to be transposed into domestic legislation; what timetable he has set for his Department's consultation on the Renewable Transport Obligation prior to this legislation; what the terms of reference of the consultation will be; and if he will make a statement. [37220]

**Norman Baker** [holding answer 3 February 2011]: I am clear that biofuels have a role in our efforts to tackle climate change particularly where there is no viable alternative fuel identified, as is the case with aviation. However it is a prerequisite that biofuels used must lead to a worthwhile reduction in carbon emissions and be sustainable. I am engaging with ministerial colleagues across Government to ensure a coherent approach to the deployment of sustainable biofuels.

Amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel Order (RTFO) 2007 are being considered to implement both the transport elements of the renewable energy directive (RED) and aspects of the closely related fuel quality directive (FQD).

We have taken additional time to consider how best to implement the RED and FQD and are working to transpose the directives in the second half of this year, and to implement by the end of 2011. The Department will publish consultation documents shortly.

As part of the consultation exercise we intend to set out a timetable for implementation and will share this with stakeholders. The consultation will include implementation proposals on the detail of the sustainability criteria to be transposed into the RTFO.

The RED contains a requirement that the European Commission undertake a wide ranging review of the directive by 31 December 2014 and propose amendments if appropriate. Any such proposal may lead to further revisions of the RTFO.

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to implement provisions from the EU renewable energy directive prohibiting the import of biofuels which do not fulfil sustainability criteria. [38139]

**Norman Baker:** Amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel (RTFO) Order 2007 are being considered to implement both the transport elements of the renewable energy directive (RED) and aspects of the closely related fuel quality directive (FQD).

Biofuels used towards meeting the RED and FQD targets must meet a number of mandatory sustainability criteria.

We have taken additional time to consider how best to implement the RED and FQD and are working to transpose the directives in the second half of this year, and to implement by the end of 2011.

The Department will publish consultation documents shortly.

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the use of imported biofuels from areas at risk of (a) degradation of natural habitats, (b) indirect land use change and (c) loss of biodiversity. [38141]

**Norman Baker:** The Renewable Energy Directive (RED) requires the UK to ensure that 10% of energy consumed in transport comes from renewable sources by 2020 and to ensure that any biofuels used towards this target meet a number of mandatory sustainability criteria. These include that biofuels must deliver a greenhouse gas saving of at least 35%, and must not be sourced from areas of high biodiversity, from high carbon soils (such as rainforests or wetlands), or from nature protection areas.

We have taken additional time to consider how best to implement the RED and FQD and are working to transpose the directives and the sustainability requirements in the second half of this year, and to implement by the end of 2011. The Department will publish consultation documents shortly.

The UK Government responded to a European consultation on Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) in October 2010. The European Commission is now undertaking further assessment of whether and how to address ILUC in European legislation, which will conclude by July 2011.



### Bus Services: Subsidies

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of bus routes which received a public subsidy in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [36919]

**Norman Baker:** Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) is paid to operators of all eligible local bus services. This includes the vast majority of local bus routes in England. In 2009-10, £430 million of BSOG was paid to operators of local bus services in England.

In London, Transport for London (TfL) tender for local bus services. Outside London, English local authorities tender for around 20% of local bus services. In 2009-10, around £1,070 million was spent by TfL and local authorities on tendered services.

As a result, the vast majority of local bus routes in England receive public subsidy. We do not hold information on the amount of subsidy per bus route.

### Buses: Fuels

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what incentives his Department provides to bus operators to use fuel which has minimal adverse effects on the environment. [39311]

**Norman Baker:** Under the £45 million Green Bus Fund, the Department for Transport is supporting the purchase of around 500 new low carbon emission buses (LCEBs). LCEBs use around 30% less fuel than conventional diesel buses and emit around a third less carbon dioxide. All buses supported by the Green Bus Fund have to be ordered by the end of March 2011 and must be in service by the end of March 2012.

In addition, from 1 April 2010, a 3% increase in bus service operators grant (BSOG) has been payable to any operator which achieves a fuel efficiency improvement (as measured in kilometres per litre) of 6% compared with the 'base year'.

Furthermore, a payment of 6p for every kilometre operated by Low Carbon Emission Buses has been payable since 1 April 2009.

### Crossrail Line: Woolwich

**Mr Raynsford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the agreement between his Department and Transport for London and Berkeley Homes for the construction of the station box at Woolwich as part of the Crossrail scheme; and if he will make a statement. [39526]

**Mrs Villiers:** Negotiations to secure a funding solution for Woolwich station box are ongoing. Crossrail Ltd, the Department for Transport, Transport for London and Berkeley Homes have been working hard to secure an agreement which is in line with principles made clear to Parliament in 2007. These principles are that a station box at Woolwich can go ahead so long as it can be funded at no extra cost to the public purse above the current cost of Crossrail.

### Cycle to Work Scheme

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the level of take-up by (a) employees and (b) employers of the Cycle to Work scheme. [38207]

**Norman Baker:** Cycle to Work schemes make use of the Finance Act 1999 annual tax exemption, which allows employers to loan cycles and cyclists' safety equipment to employees as a tax-free benefit.

While the Department does not hold data regarding the take up of the scheme, the Cycle to Work Alliance report that there are currently over 400,000 employees taking advantage of the scheme. This involves 650 bike retailers and 15,000 employers.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38952]

**Norman Baker [holding answer 9 February 2011]:** Figures are taken from the Operational Efficiency Programme benchmarking exercise for the period of April 2009 to March 2010. The figures represent full-time equivalents (FTEs). The NDPBs figures requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost due to this information not being held centrally.

The Department's central communications function is currently being downsized to contribute to the overall reduction in staff costs by around 25% as part of the Department's programme for meeting the Government's policy of reducing administration costs by 33% during the spending review period.

*Communications staff, full-time equivalents, 2009-10*

|   |                          | Central<br>Department | Executive<br>agencies |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Internal communications  | 7.0                   | 25.5                  |
| 2 | Digital/social media     | 6.0                   | 10.3                  |
| 3 | Strategic communications | 10.0                  | 23.5                  |
| 4 | Corporate communications | 0                     | 17.0                  |
| 5 | Marketing                | 17.5                  | 67.3                  |
| 6 | Media/press              | 19.0                  | 30.5                  |
| 7 | Senior management        | 1.0                   | 5.5                   |

### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36193]

**Norman Baker:** A table listing single tender contracts awarded since 12 May 2010 has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

#### Dover Harbour Board

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 151W, on the Dover Harbour Board, on what dates since May 2010 officials in his Department met the Dover Harbour Board; and which officials were present at each such meeting. [37845]

**Mike Penning:** A number of policy officials in the Department met representatives of Dover Harbour Board in the normal course of business on 17 June 2010. Policy officials were also present at a meeting I held on 21 June with the chairman of Dover Harbour Board and my visit to the port of Dover on 8 December.

Departmental officials dealing with the decision on the proposed transfer scheme have not held meetings with representatives of Dover Harbour Board.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the majority view was of respondents to the two consultations carried out by his Department on the transfer scheme proposed by the Dover Harbour Board. [37881]

**Mike Penning:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to him on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 152W.

I have placed in the Library of the House summaries of the representations received on the application from Dover Harbour Board to allow it to sell the port of Dover. The Decision Minister, the Minister of State, Department for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), is presently considering the application made by the Dover Harbour Board in the light of those representations.

#### Electric Vehicles

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of (a) electric cars and (b) hybrid cars sold in the UK in 2009-10. [37843]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport does not hold data on vehicle sales, but does hold data on newly-registered vehicles. During the 2009-10 financial year there were 202 electric cars and 17,437 hybrid cars newly registered at addresses in the UK.

#### High Speed 2

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what preparatory work his Department has undertaken on the interoperability of High Speed 2 with European rail standards; [38592]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely costs arising from interoperability requirements in the construction of High Speed 2. [38799]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The specification designed by HS2 Ltd is for HS2 to be fully interoperable with existing European high speed railways. While no specific

estimates have been made, designing the line to European standards is likely to reduce costs as off-the-shelf componentry could be utilised.

#### High Speed 2: Finance

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has allocated for exceptional hardship purposes in its budget for High Speed 2. [38805]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The Department for Transport has estimated £50 million for the cost of the Exceptional Hardship Scheme over the life of the scheme from launch on 20 August 2010 to its assumed end date around the end of 2011 or early 2012.

#### Local Sustainable Transport Fund

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had recent discussions on the role of employers in use of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. [38208]

**Norman Baker:** As part of the bidding guidance issued to accompany the £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund, local authorities are encouraged to engage with local businesses and employers when preparing applications in order to ensure that such bids meet the key objectives of the fund—to create growth and cut carbon.

#### Localism Bill

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to take steps to encourage community ownership bids for statutory harbour authorities under clauses 66 to 70 of the Localism Bill. [37864]

**Mike Penning:** The Localism Bill is currently being considered by the House of Commons Committee. It will be for the community to determine whether it wants to make a challenge or a bid, under the opportunities provided by the Localism Bill.

#### Parking: Fees and Charges

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from local authorities on the level of parking charges and penalties since 12 May 2010; and how many of these requested greater scope for local authorities in determining the level of such charges and penalties. [39365]

**Norman Baker** [holding answer 9 February 2011]: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 36W, and the right hon. Member for Warley (Mr Spellar) on 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 264W. I have not received further representations from local authorities since those dates.

One local authority has requested greater scope in determining the level of parking penalty charges.

### Railways: Disability

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 891W, on railways: disability, if he will assess the provision of support available to disabled passengers who choose to travel at short notice. [38198]

**Norman Baker:** We do not currently intend to carry out an assessment of the level of service and facilities available to disabled passengers who choose to travel at short notice, as this is primarily an operational matter for the train operating companies and Network Rail in their compliance with the obligations placed upon them by the Equalities Act. We do however understand that Passenger Focus is planning further research in this area, which we await with interest.

### Railways: Franchising

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanism he plans to put in place to measure rail overcrowding in (a) Manchester, (b) Leeds and (c) Birmingham under his proposed rail franchise rules. [35985]

**Mrs Villiers:** The crowding measures, and associated mechanisms, that will be used in non-London urban centres will be developed when the relevant commuter franchises are re-let reflecting the specific issues that relate to each area.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the relative consideration to be given to (a) investment, (b) profitability, (c) punctuality and (d) overcrowding in determining the length of future rail franchises; [35993]

(2) what factors his Department will take into account in determining the length of future rail franchises. [35994]

**Mrs Villiers:** We believe that future franchises should generally be for around 15 years but that shorter contracts may be necessary in some circumstances, for example, where major works like Thameslink will involve significant changes in the configuration of services. Where significant private sector investment is proposed, we are prepared to consider franchises of up to 22.5 years.

The significant variation in the nature of services provided on different parts of the network means that a one size-fits-all approach to franchising is not appropriate. Franchise terms will therefore be tailored to the specific circumstances of the services in question.

We anticipate that issues around profit sharing, punctuality and crowding will be assessed as part of the bid process and will be reflected in contract outputs where appropriate.

### Railways: Overcrowding

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what resources his Department has allocated to help train operators manage overcrowding. [35996]

**Mrs Villiers:** In total the Government will deliver more than 2,100 new rail carriages on to the network by May 2019. Of these 1,200 will be for new Crossrail and Thameslink services. This will in turn free up hundreds of existing electric carriages to be deployed on to the newly electrified lines by franchised train operators. In total, there will be at least 1,850 net additional carriages on the network by 2019. The Government are currently engaged in commercial negotiations with the franchised operators about the allocation of the unallocated element of 650 further carriages for delivery before 2014.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether parties injured in a motor vehicle accident where the driver at fault is not insured are entitled to compensation from the public purse. [39395]

**Mike Penning:** Victims in accidents involving uninsured drivers are eligible to claim compensation from the Motor Insurers' Bureau, the UK compensation body funded by the motor insurance industry.

### Sea Rescue

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the compatibility of his proposals to reduce the number of (a) coastguard control centres and (b) coastguard control staff with the provisions of the international convention on maritime search and rescue 1979. [38061]

**Mike Penning:** The proposals as outlined in the consultation document "Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century" are compatible with the international convention on maritime search and rescue 1979.

In the MCA's proposal, the communications infrastructure and the provision of search and rescue facilities (coastguard rescue teams, helicopters, lifeboats etc.) are unaffected, and are considered to be appropriate with the provisions of the convention. Furthermore the ability of centres to communicate with and support one another will be enhanced.

### Shipping: Oil

**Dr Therese Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ships gave notice of ship to ship oil transfers in January 2011, as required under MARPOL annex 1 new chapter 8. [39117]

**Mike Penning:** Chapter 8 of annex I to the MARPOL convention has not yet been implemented in the UK. It will be implemented by means of regulations which are being prepared by the Department for Transport.

In January 2011:

13 applications for permission to carry out ship-to-ship transfers in the UK territorial sea, resulting in 16 actual ship-to-ship transfers, were processed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. (Two other applications were submitted but withdrawn.)

No ships notified the UK that they planned ship-to-ship transfer operations beyond the 12 nautical mile limit of the UK territorial sea.



### Trust Ports

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans to convert those trust ports classified as public corporations into organisations owned by the local community. [37867]

**Mike Penning:** The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has no such plans.

In relation to the Port of Dover, as my hon. Friend is aware, the Minister of State, Department for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), is currently considering an application for a transfer of the port undertaking made by Dover Harbour Board under the Ports Act 1991.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 265W, on trust ports, what relevant policy guidance his Department provides; and if he will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [37964]

**Mike Penning:** No such specific guidance has been issued. However, any such guidance, if issued, would be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 265W, on trust ports, whether any sanctions are available to him in respect of trust ports which have failed to deal with stakeholders in an accountable manner beyond asking them to explain their reasons. [37965]

**Mike Penning:** If a stakeholder considers that a trust port or its board has not dealt with their concerns appropriately, then they should bring it to the Department's attention. After the board of the trust port has had an opportunity to comment, the Department will consider what the appropriate response should be.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the Member for Christchurch of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on trust ports: privatisation, what relevant representations his Department received in relation to the proposals by Dover Harbour Port. [38320]

**Mike Penning:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to him on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 152W.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will make it his policy that when a trust port is sold the levy of 50 per cent. applicable under the provisions of the Ports Act 1991 be passed to the community to be reinvested for the benefit of the locality; [38321]

(2) if he will make it his policy to allow trust ports designated as public corporations to be transferred to independent status without the proceeds accruing to the local community or to the Exchequer. [38324]

**Mike Penning:** The Ports Act 1991 requires all payments of the levy on the sale of a major trust port to be made into the Consolidated Fund. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has no plans to bring forward legislation to amend the Ports Act.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Marine Management Organisation has received any recent proposals from a trust port to seek powers through a harbour revision order to modify the terms of the Ports Act 1991 for the purposes of relinquishing public corporation status. [38322]

**Mike Penning:** The Marine Management Organisation has not received any recent such proposals from a trust port.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy that public corporation status for major trust ports be rescinded in favour of community ownership. [38323]

**Mike Penning:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no such plans.

In relation to the port of Dover, as my hon. Friend is aware, my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State (Mrs Villiers) is currently considering an application for a transfer of the port undertaking made by Dover Harbour Board under the Ports Act 1991.

### WORK AND PENSIONS

#### Council Tax Benefits

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence with (a) the Local Government Association, (b) local authorities and (c) the devolved administrations on his proposals to localise council tax benefit. [29023]

**Steve Webb:** There has been no formal ministerial correspondence on this matter, however, there has been contact at official level with devolved Administrations, all local authorities and their associations on proposals announced as part of the Spending Review, specifically a letter from the head of housing benefit strategy division within the Department for Work and Pensions to colleagues within the Local Government Association, London Councils and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities dated 20 October 2010, which the Secretary of State has placed in the Library.

#### Departmental Publications

**Conor Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the publication and distribution of its DWPeople magazine in each year since the magazine's first publication. [36929]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions launched an all staff magazine in April 2010 called DWPeople. This magazine is written and designed in-house by staff in DWP Internal Communications.

The costs are:

April 2010 to December 2010 = £127,387.70 (net costs)

This cost was for a bi-monthly publication, with 40,000 copies produced each issue and made available to all DWP staff.

We are currently looking at lower cost electronic options to distribute DWPeople.

The Department is currently reviewing expenditure across the board to ensure we are delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

#### **Disability Living Allowance: Housing Benefit**

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of local housing allowance claimants are in receipt of disability living allowance; [39711]

(2) how many disability living allowance claimants will be affected by changes to local housing allowance in 2011-12; and what estimate he has made of the average change in the level of benefit payments to such claimants. [39712]

**Steve Webb:** The information on the proportion of local housing allowance claimants who receive disability living allowance is not available.

Information is collected on claimants' income from disability living allowance on the new single housing benefit extract. However, this information has not yet been quality assured to National Statistics standard, and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July 2010. This can be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/impacts-of-hb-proposals.pdf>

An impact assessment and equality impact assessment were published on 30 November. These can be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-impact-nov10.pdf>

and

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-eia-nov10.pdf>

#### **Disability Living Allowance: Industrial Diseases**

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have successfully claimed industrial injuries disability benefit for osteoarthritis in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency in each of the last three years. [39505]

**Maria Miller:** Osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners, and osteoarthritis of the hip in farmers are both included within the industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme. We do not have information on the numbers of successful claims for either disease at constituency level, but can provide the numbers of successful claims for osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners at the national level. The number of farmers paid benefit for osteoarthritis of the hip is not currently available.

Since the addition of osteoarthritis of the knee to the list of prescribed industrial diseases on 13 July 2009, 18,605 customers received an award of, or an increase in, industrial injuries disablement benefit.

This information is based on an informal count by the Jobcentre Plus offices dealing with industrial injuries disablement benefit at December 2010. This information will be published in due course.

#### **Future Jobs Fund**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the operation of the future jobs fund on economic growth; and if he will make a statement. [38892]

**Chris Grayling:** At up to £6,500 per person the future jobs fund (FJF) is expensive; creates temporary, short term posts; and the grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent jobs. As part of the evaluation of the FJF we will be conducting an impact assessment to estimate the difference that the policy has made to participants' employment and benefit receipt outcomes. To enable participants' outcomes to be tracked for a sufficient period analysis will be undertaken from autumn 2011. This will inform a cost-benefit assessment based on benefit, fiscal and economic savings. However it is not possible to reliably identify the potential impact on economic growth.

#### **Housing Benefit**

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons are for the timetable he has set for implementation of the proposed housing benefit cap and the proposed 30<sup>th</sup> percentile calculation change. [22320]

**Steve Webb:** The Department laid amendments to Housing Benefit legislation on 30 November 2010. Following advice from the Social Security Advisory Committee and key stakeholders in relation to the implementation of these measures and to ensure a smooth transition, the measure to set local housing allowance rates at the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile and the overall weekly caps will both come into force for new customers from 1 April 2011. This means all measures that will adjust local housing allowance rates in 2011 will come into force on the same date. However, existing customers will have more time to adjust to any reduction in entitlement by having up to nine months transitional protection at their existing local housing allowance rate from the anniversary date of the claim.

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of single 25 to 35 year-old local housing allowance claimants living in single-occupancy households in (a) West Lothian and (b) Scotland. [37939]

**Steve Webb:** At October 2010, our records show that there were 8,110 recipients of housing benefit in Scotland assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements who were single and aged between 25 and 35 years old. Out of these recipients, 170 were living in West Lothian local authority. Information about the occupancy type of these households is not available.

*Note:*

Figures are derived from the single housing benefit extract for October 2010 and are rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent in real terms on housing benefit in each year since the introduction of the benefit. [39599]

**Steve Webb:** The first year of housing benefit in broadly its current form is 1988-89. Housing benefit expenditure in real terms is shown in the following table.

|                  | 2010-11 prices (£ million) |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1988-89          | 7,429                      |
| 1989-90          | 7,860                      |
| 1990-91          | 8,737                      |
| 1991-92          | 10,279                     |
| 1991-92          | 10,279                     |
| 1992-93          | 12,245                     |
| 1993-94          | 14,060                     |
| 1994-95          | 15,175                     |
| 1995-96          | 15,879                     |
| 1996-97          | 16,017                     |
| 1997-98          | 15,331                     |
| 1998-99          | 14,863                     |
| 1999-2000        | 14,575                     |
| 2000-01          | 14,514                     |
| 2001-02          | 14,739                     |
| 2002-03          | 15,571                     |
| 2003-04          | 14,790                     |
| 2004-05          | 15,341                     |
| 2005-06          | 15,950                     |
| 2006-07          | 16,443                     |
| 2007-08          | 16,945                     |
| 2008-09          | 17,927                     |
| 2009-10          | 20,597                     |
| 2010-11 forecast | 21,477                     |

**Notes:**

1. Forecasts for 2010-11 are based on the autumn 2010 forecast.
2. Housing benefit expenditure can be found at the following URL:  
[http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables\\_budget2010.xls](http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables_budget2010.xls)
3. Housing benefit expenditure by local authority district can be found at the following URL:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/h\\_tables\\_budget2010.xls](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/h_tables_budget2010.xls)

Source:

Local Authority Subsidy returns

**Pensions**

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the average income of (a) women and (b) men retiring in 2011 will be made up of (i) basic state pension, (ii) occupational and personal pension, (iii) additional state pension and (iv) other savings. [39510]

**Steve Webb:** The exact information requested is not available.

Estimates of the levels of pensioners' incomes are published in the Pensioners' Income Series, which uses Family Resources Survey data. The latest year for which figures are available is 2008-09. It should be noted that information provided for 2008-09 covers all those who were pensioners in that year and not those that retired in that year.

The following table gives information available for the average incomes of pensioner couples, single male pensioners and single female pensioners in 2008-09 split out by various income sources. It is not possible to split out basic state pension and additional state pension from the survey data—these are both included within state pension income in the following table:

| All pensioners in 2008-09        | Average income (£ per week) | As a percentage of gross income |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Pensioner couples</b>         |                             |                                 |
| Gross income                     | 564                         | 100                             |
| <i>Of which:</i>                 |                             |                                 |
| State pension income             | 150                         | 27                              |
| Non state pension benefit income | 41                          | 7                               |
| Occupational pension             | 145                         | 26                              |
| Personal pension income          | 25                          | 4                               |
| Investment income                | 57                          | 10                              |
| Earnings                         | 141                         | 25                              |
| Other income                     | 5                           | 1                               |
| <b>Single male pensioners</b>    |                             |                                 |
| Gross income                     | 304                         | 100                             |
| <i>Of which:</i>                 |                             |                                 |
| State pension income             | 116                         | 38                              |
| Non state pension benefit income | 47                          | 15                              |
| Occupational pension             | 81                          | 27                              |
| Personal pension income          | 13                          | 4                               |
| Investment income                | 28                          | 9                               |
| Earnings                         | 17                          | 6                               |
| Other income                     | 2                           | 1                               |
| <b>Single female pensioners</b>  |                             |                                 |
| Gross income                     | 264                         | 100                             |
| <i>Of which:</i>                 |                             |                                 |
| State pension income             | 109                         | 41                              |
| Non state pension benefit income | 53                          | 20                              |
| Occupational pension             | 54                          | 20                              |
| Personal pension income          | 4                           | 2                               |
| Investment income                | 19                          | 7                               |



| <i>All pensioners in 2008-09</i> | <i>Average income (£ per week)</i> | <i>As a percentage of gross income</i> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Earnings                         | 22                                 | 8                                      |
| Other income                     | 3                                  | 1                                      |

**Notes:**

1. These statistics are based on the Family Resources Survey.
2. The estimates presented here are for the United Kingdom.
3. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
4. The analysis provided is for pensioner units. A pensioner unit is defined to be either a single pensioner over state pension age (i.e. a man aged 65+ or a woman aged 60+ in 2008-09) or a pensioner couple, either married or cohabiting, where one or more are over state pension age. The analysis does not reflect income from others in a household. So, for example, if a pensioner lives with their adult children, the children's income is not reflected in this analysis.
5. Gross income is income from all sources received by the pensioner unit including income from social security benefits (including housing benefit), earnings from employment, or self-employment, any private pension and tax credits.
6. State pension income consists of basic state pension, additional state pension, widow's pension and widowed parent's allowance.
7. Non state pension benefit income consists of pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit, social fund grants, carer's allowance, disability living allowance and attendance allowance.
8. Average incomes have been rounded to the nearest pound.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the additional basic state pension entitlement is for (a) a woman and (b) a man retiring in (i) 2016 and (ii) 2018. [39512]

**Steve Webb:** The available information is in the following table.

| <i>Average amount of weekly state second pension/state earnings-related pension scheme for new claimants at state pension age</i> |                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                   | <i>March 2016</i> | <i>£, cash terms<br/>March 2018</i> |
| Male                                                                                                                              | 35                | 37                                  |
| Female                                                                                                                            | 21                | 23                                  |

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1.
2. Award relates to the average weekly amount of state second pension/state earnings related pension scheme in payment to someone claiming at state pension age in a particular year and exclude those above state pension age receiving a deferred claim.
3. Figures do not include graduated retirement benefit.
4. Figure include claimants living overseas.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average occupational pension for a (a) woman and (b) man retiring in (i) 2011, (ii) 2016 and (iii) 2018. [39600]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is in the following table.

|      | <i>Men</i> | <i>£<br/>Women</i> |
|------|------------|--------------------|
| 2011 | 143        | 78                 |
| 2016 | 162        | 102                |
| 2018 | 178        | 106                |

**Notes:**

1. Results shown are mean weekly average occupational pension income for those who have some occupational pension income (those with a nil amount are excluded) and who reach state pension age in the indicated years; they are in cash terms and are rounded to the nearest £1.
2. Results are based on version 11.02 of DWP's pension simulation model Pensions2 and reflect all legislated and announced pension policy changes; for example, automatic enrolment into workplace pension schemes, increases in state pension age etc. Figures shown are indicative as they are based on small sample sizes; Pensions2 contains a 60,000 representative sample of the population and only a proportion of these reach state pension age in any given year with a non-zero occupational pension amount.
3. Results show combined income from all occupational pension schemes, both defined contribution (including NEST) and defined benefit schemes; they do not include any income from state pension, other state benefits (either contributory or income based) or personal pensions (including stakeholder pensions).
4. Historical information on proportions in receipt of occupational pensions and amounts received are available through the DWP's Pensioners' Income Series, copies of which are available in the Library.

**Social Security Benefits**

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of out-of-work benefits were in receipt of (a) incapacity benefit, (b) severe disablement allowance and (c) employment support allowance in each year since 1992; and how many of these were also in receipt of disability living allowance in each such year. [39710]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested regarding the number of people receiving incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance is currently only available for the period May 2002 to May 2010. We are also currently unable to provide figures for the number of people receiving each of these benefits who were also in receipt of disability living allowance. Collating the information requested for these benefits between 1992 and 2002 will take a longer period due to the complexity and extent of work required.

I will undertake to write to the hon. Member by 28 February with the rest of the information requested, and will deposit a copy of the letter in the House Library.

**Incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants: Great Britain and abroad**

| <i>As at May each year</i> | <i>Incapacity benefit</i> | <i>Severe disablement allowance</i> | <i>Employment and support allowance</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2002                       | 2,471,140                 | 336,480                             | n/a                                     |
| 2003                       | 2,494,890                 | 320,760                             | n/a                                     |
| 2004                       | 2,508,770                 | 305,940                             | n/a                                     |
| 2005                       | 2,490,850                 | 292,870                             | n/a                                     |
| 2006                       | 2,449,990                 | 280,010                             | n/a                                     |
| 2007                       | 2,417,710                 | 267,610                             | n/a                                     |
| 2008                       | 2,382,000                 | 255,560                             | n/a                                     |
| 2009                       | 2,130,130                 | 244,090                             | 288,270                                 |
| 2010                       | 1,892,980                 | 233,710                             | 527,120                                 |

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance for new claimants from October 2008.
4. Data includes those cases receiving 'credits only'.

**Source:**

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

### Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has any plans to renegotiate the contract with companies providing medical assessments for employment and support allowance and disability living allowance applicants following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [37699]

**Chris Grayling:** The DWP Medical Services contract was awarded to Atos Healthcare, a division of Atos Origin, in 2005 for a period of seven years, with the option to extend for a further three and then for a further two. In 2009 the Department negotiated an extension to the contract to 31 August 2015 with the exclusion of disability living allowance from 2013, which will be put to competitive tender. The extension is made subject to Atos Healthcare delivering substantial savings against the current estimated cost of £100 million per annum.

### Work Capability Assessment

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's document ESA214—The Work Capability Assessment, page 4, what the cost of the contract to the private company carrying out the medical services element of the work capability assessment was in the last 12 months. [37877]

**Chris Grayling:** Information relating to the cost to the contractor for delivery of the medical services element of the work capability assessment is commercially sensitive and release of the information would prejudice the interests of Atos Healthcare and the Department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers.

**Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many assessments conducted by Atos were carried out on people suffering from a terminal illness in 2010. [38202]

**Chris Grayling:** In 2010, 4,647 employment support allowance cases were referred to Atos Healthcare by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) under the terminal illness code. Of these, 3,253 cases were confirmed as terminally ill.

In 2010, 100,942 disability living allowance cases were referred to Atos Healthcare by the DWP under the terminal illness code. No information is held on how many of these were confirmed as terminally ill.

No information is held relating to terminal illness cases for other benefit types.

### PRIME MINISTER

#### Remploy

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cynon Valley of 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 857, on Remploy, for what reasons he believes the previous administration had planned to phase out support for Remploy; and if he will make a statement. [39506]

**The Prime Minister:** The modernisation plan for Remploy was introduced by the previous administration and under which 29 factories were closed or merged. The plan also contained unrealistic sales targets of 130% growth in procurement for Remploy's factories.

Like all manufacturing organisations Remploy faces increased global competition and the need to overcome the impact of the recession. As a result the previous administration's modernisation plan's sales targets have proved impossible to achieve. For this reason Remploy management have decided to offer voluntary redundancies to staff and managers in the factories and central functions.

The Government have confirmed that Remploy's operational budget for the current five-year modernisation period remains protected at £555 million.

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39262]

**Mr O'Brien:** Passes may be issued to individuals where there is an identified business need for them to make frequent visits to Department for International Development premises, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

#### Palestinians: Overseas Aid

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided in aid to Palestinians, excluding for police and security purposes, in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [39036]

**Mr O'Brien:** Excluding funding for specific projects to support the development of the Palestinian security sector, UK aid to the occupied Palestinian territories (OPTs) totalled:

£59.4 million in 2007-08;

£60.2 million in 2008-09; and

£82.1 million in 2009-10.

These figures include contributions to the UN Relief and Works Agency, which provides services to Palestinian refugees both in the OPTs themselves and also in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The figures also include our direct financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA), which supports among other things the PA's payment of recurrent costs, such as civil service and security force salaries. As this funding is not earmarked, we cannot disaggregate the proportion used to pay salaries in the security sector. All support provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to the OPTs, including our support to Palestinian policing and security, is classified as official development assistance (ODA) in accordance with the rules of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD's) Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

**Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid**

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated to aid to Zimbabwe in 2010-11. [38984]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £70 million to Zimbabwe for 2010-11 through its bilateral aid programme. Final spending figures for 2010-11 will be available by October 2011 in DFID's annual publication, 'Statistics on International Development', which provides a detailed summary of UK aid flows.

None of the funds provided by the UK are channelled through the Government of Zimbabwe. DFID works

through established partners such as the United Nations and non-governmental organisations.

**HEALTH****Care UK**

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers and (c) senior officials in his Department have had with representatives of Care UK since his appointment. [39175]

**Paul Burstow:** Ministers and senior officials in the Department have had the following meetings with independent sector organisations where Care UK representatives were in attendance.

| No. | Date of meeting   | Ministers/senior officials in attendance                                                         | Purpose of meeting                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 30 July 2010      | Bob Ricketts—Director, Provider Policy                                                           | Any Willing Provider (AWP) Workshop—Workshop on proposals to extend AWP into community services. In attendance were representatives of Independent Sector/Voluntary Sector Organisations including Care UK. |
| 2   | 16 September 2010 | Ian Dalton—Managing Director, Provider Development                                               | NHS Chief Executive Conference for the Independent Sector. Mike Parish, Chief Executive, Care UK in attendance.                                                                                             |
| 3   | 26 October 2010   | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe)<br><br>Bob Ricketts—Director, Provider Policy | Meeting with David Worslett (Director of NHS Partners Network)—Care UK representative was also in attendance as part of the NHS Partners Network.                                                           |
| 4   | 2 November 2010   | Bob Ricketts—Director, Provider Policy                                                           | Future of Provider Landscape Workshop—In attendance were representatives of Independent Sector/Voluntary Sector Organisations including Care UK.                                                            |
| 5   | 18 January 2010   | Ian Dalton—Managing Director, Provider Development<br><br>Bob Ricketts—Director, Provider Policy | Attendance at the NHS Partners Network Dinner at the Commonwealth Club.                                                                                                                                     |

**Darent Valley Hospital**

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has undertaken any consultations on health provision at Darent Valley hospital; and if he will make a statement. [38969]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not undertaken any consultations on health provision at Darent Valley hospital. It is for national health service commissioners to consider the provision of services for their local population.

**Departmental Procurement**

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39221]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has, since September 2010, published the documentation for 99 tenders over

the value of £10,000 both on the interim website that was made available until December 2010 and more recently Contracts Finder. The Department has not published two tenders during this as exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act were considered to apply to both.

The Government's commitment to publish all new contracts awarded was from January 2011. The Department will be publishing shortly those contracts awarded since January 2011, subject to consideration of possible exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Department has put in place an internal monitoring process to ensure that new tenders and contracts are published in line with the Government's commitments.

**Departmental Redundancy Pay**

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a confidentiality clause in a contract entered into with a public body and concerning a special severance payment prevents the other party to that contract from discussing with their hon. Member (a) details of the agreement and (b) matters relating to the agreement. [39790]



**Mr Simon Burns:** Special severance payments when staff leave public service employment should be exceptional. They will always require Treasury approval. Whether the payment is made under a compromise agreement or not, which may or may not include a confidentiality clause, setting out exactly what is expected of both parties, is a matter for local discretion.

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 provides that any clause or term in contract, or other agreement between a worker and their employer, is void insofar as it purports to preclude the worker from making a protected disclosure.

In relation to 'gagging clauses', the Department's stance has not altered since 2005. Contracts of employment are a matter between the employing organisation and its employee. It is likely that most contracts will include some form of confidentiality clause as employees will have access to sensitive patient and commercial information which should not be released. However, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 provides that any clause or term in contract, or other agreement between a worker and their employer, is void insofar as it purports to preclude the worker from making a protected disclosure.

The Department made clear, in a Health Service Circular on the Public Interest Disclosure Act (HSC 1999/198), that local policies should prohibit confidentiality gagging clauses in contracts of employment and compromise agreements which seek to prevent the disclosure of information in the public interest.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to satisfy himself that all special severance payments comply with HM Treasury guidance Managing Public Money, annex 4.13; [39791]

(2) what steps he is taking to satisfy himself that all special severance payments achieve value for money in line with HM Treasury guidance Managing Public Money. [39792]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The NHS Finance Controllers Office (in the Department of Health) has produced and published detailed guidance for employers to follow around the process for making severance payments. This guidance states that employers should consider why a severance case represents value for money, before a business case for the payment is produced.

Strategic health authorities are required to submit all business cases for severance payments to the NHS Finance Controllers Office in the Department of Health. The NHS Finance Controllers Office then seeks HM Treasury approval for the business case.

Foundation trusts must also seek HM Treasury approval, through Monitor, for all severance payments.

Consequently, all severance payments made by national health service employers must be approved by HM Treasury. As part of this approval process, HM Treasury apply their own criteria to assess whether severance payments achieve value for money.

#### General Practitioners

**Mr Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals for GP consortia he has received to date in (a) Enfield, (b) London and (c) England; and what criteria will be used to assess such proposals. [38996]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Bill sets out that it will be for the NHS Commissioning Board to determine applications to become a consortia.

A rolling programme of GP pathfinder consortia has been established to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions. Groups of GP practices keen to participate in the pathfinder programme put themselves forward to their strategic health authority (SHA). SHAs will approve any group of practices to become a pathfinder if they can demonstrate clinical leadership, local authority engagement, and an ability to contribute to the delivery of the local quality, innovation, productivity and prevention agenda in their locality. They will also need to be able to operate in the context of the existing service and financial plans in the health communities they are working in.

For details of the pathfinder consortia already established I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne (John Healey) on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 846-49W.

#### Gosport War Memorial Hospital

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure accountability in the case of the deaths of patients at the Gosport War Memorial hospital in the late 1990s; [39325]

(2) if he will initiate a public inquiry into the deaths of patients at Gosport War Memorial hospital in the late 1990s. [39326]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The police investigated the circumstances surrounding the deaths of several elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial hospital in the late 1990s; the Crown Prosecution Service subsequently decided that there was insufficient evidence to justify any prosecutions. The doctor whose actions had come under suspicion was also subject to a General Medical Council Fitness to Practise hearing which concluded that her continued registration should be made subject to several conditions. We understand that the doctor has now retired.

The Portsmouth coroner will be holding an inquest into the death of another elderly patient who died at Gosport War Memorial hospital at the time concerned. We will wait until the conclusion of that inquest before deciding whether any further action is appropriate; however, we cannot at present see what more a public inquiry could discover.

#### Hospital Wards: Closures

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which (a) urgent care units, (b) accident and emergency departments and (c) maternity departments are the subject of a closure proposal. [39110]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held centrally. Activity on national health service reconfiguration, either planned or already under way is a matter for the local NHS.

The Secretary of State for Health has outlined new strengthened criteria he expects decisions on NHS service changes to meet. All service reconfiguration proposals must:

- demonstrate support from general practitioner commissioners
- ensure arrangements for public and patient engagement, including local authorities should be further strengthened
- ensure greater clarity about the clinical evidence base underpinning proposals
- take into account the need to develop and support patient choice

#### Infant Foods: Labelling

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had at EU level on the effects on consumer confidence of industry practices in labelling formula milk containing docosahexanoic acid. [39276]

**Anne Milton:** European Union-wide legislation on the use of certain health claims for docosahexanoic acid was agreed at the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health on 6 December 2010. Consumer understanding of the labelling of these products was discussed by EU member states and was taken into account in the conditions of use which apply to the claims. The claims, which are now subject to scrutiny by the European Parliament, would not be permitted on infant formula (products suitable for babies from birth). However they could be used on follow-on formula (suitable for babies from six months of age), weaning foods and any other foods meeting the conditions of use.

#### NHS: Pay

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the pay of all NHS staff will remain within the remit of the relevant national pay review bodies after implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill; [39099]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of NHS staff that will be covered by national pay and bargaining structures following implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [39100]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government have committed to work with NHS Employers and trade unions to explore appropriate arrangements for setting pay following the end of the two-year public sector pay freeze. At this stage, I am unable to predict the outcome of those discussions and, therefore, what the future remit of the pay review bodies may be.

We are unable to estimate the number of national health service staff that will be covered by future national pay and bargaining structures. The Government have made it clear that pay decisions should be led by health care employers rather than imposed by the Government.

To achieve this, all individual employers will have the right, as foundation trusts have now, to determine pay for their own staff. However, it is likely that many providers will want to continue to use national contracts as a basis for their local terms and conditions.

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the (a) effectiveness and (b) costs to the public purse of the Agenda for Change programme in the NHS. [39597]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Agenda for Change was introduced to replace a pay system which was no longer fit for purpose and was designed to deliver improvements in NHS services and ~~give trusts~~ the tools, advice and guidance to match staff resources and activities to patient need and organisational objective.

Use of these tools is delivering the following productivity and quality benefits:

Re-designing services around patients. Harmonising terms and conditions of service helps break down barriers between occupational groups and enhance team and gives employers the freedom to create new roles to support patient care.

Higher quality care. The new system of pay progression (linked to the Knowledge and Skills Framework) provides incentives for staff to acquire and use new skills.

Greater flexibility in the use of staff. New ways of recognising unsocial hours and extended service cover provides greater incentives for flexible working patterns, enabling services to be extended into evening and weekends.

Boosting recruitment and retention. The new pay scales offer higher starting pay and maxima, helping to improve participation rates and keep nurses working for the NHS.

Tackling local labour market pressures through the use of recruitment and retention premia.

It is for individual organisations to ensure they are making best use of the service benefits and flexibilities offered by Agenda for Change.

The paybill cost for Agenda for Change staff was £32.51 billion in 2009-10, the latest date for which figures are available.

#### NHS: Redundancy Pay

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which five (a) NHS acute trusts, (b) foundation trusts, (c) mental health trusts, (d) special health authorities, (e) strategic health authorities, (f) primary care trusts, (g) ambulance trusts and (h) care trusts made the most special severance payments by (i) total value of payments and (ii) total number of payments per organisation in each of the last three years; [39793]

(2) how many special severance payment cases have been notified to HM Treasury by (a) NHS acute trusts, (b) foundation trusts, (c) mental health trusts, (d) special health authorities, (e) strategic health authorities, (f) primary care trusts, (g) ambulance trusts and (h) care trusts, in accordance with HM Treasury Managing Public money guidelines in each of the last three years; what the total value of such payments was; and what proportion of payments included a confidentiality clause. [39794]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table shows the number and value of special severance payment cases that have been approved by HM Treasury (HMT) in respect of national health service organisations.

The table includes the number and total value of approvals for payments by HMT. It does not include the actual payments, as this information is not held by the Department. The final actual payments made can be lower than the approved amount or, not made at all.

The Department does not hold equivalent data on special severance cases for foundation trusts. The table therefore does not include foundation trusts. Foundation trusts' severance cases are under the direction of Monitor.

The Department does not hold information regarding the number of confidentiality clauses that have been included as part of any special severance payment case.

|                              | 2008-09                         |                                      | 2009-10                         |                                      | 2010-11 <sup>1</sup>            |                                      |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                              | Number of cases approved by HMT | Total value of approved payments (£) | Number of cases approved by HMT | Total value of approved payments (£) | Number of cases approved by HMT | Total value of approved payments (£) |
| NHS acute trusts             | 71                              | 2,774,508                            | 47                              | 592,408                              | 13                              | 224,225                              |
| Mental health trusts         | 19                              | 382,929                              | 11                              | 499,042                              | 2                               | 3,448                                |
| Special health authorities   | 13                              | 154,053                              | 9                               | 271,900                              | 2                               | 57,214                               |
| Strategic health authorities | 3                               | 801,223                              | 3                               | 199,985                              | 3                               | 35,791                               |
| Primary care trusts          | 75                              | 1,686,176                            | 47                              | 737,789                              | 10                              | 133,496                              |
| Ambulance trusts             | 3                               | 38,290                               | 5                               | 30,750                               | 4                               | 51,000                               |
| Care trusts                  | 6                               | 118,325                              | 5                               | 137,294                              | 0                               | 0                                    |
| NHS Direct                   | 2                               | 35,000                               | 3                               | 21,800                               | 0                               | 0                                    |
| Total                        | 192                             | 5,990,504                            | 130                             | 2,490,968                            | 34                              | 505,174                              |

<sup>1</sup> 1 April 2010 to 8 February 2011.

#### Primary Care Trusts: Costs

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the administrative costs of operating each primary care trust, excluding the administrative costs of running clinical services where the trust was the provider, was in the latest period for which figures are available. [39225]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Figures representing total expenditure on administrative and clerical staff in 2009-10 are shown in the following table. It is not possible to disaggregate the element of this total cost that can be attributed to the running of clinical services where the trust was the provider.

| Administrative and clerical staff                |        |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Name                                             | £000   |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (PCT) | 12,194 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT                         | 4,900  |
| Barnet PCT                                       | 10,539 |
| Barnsley PCT                                     | 16,178 |
| Bassetlaw PCT                                    | 3,155  |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT                 | 6,648  |
| Bedfordshire PCT                                 | 8,108  |
| Berkshire East PCT                               | 6,498  |
| Berkshire West PCT                               | 10,376 |
| Bexley NHS Care Trust PCT                        | 5,928  |
| Birmingham East and North PCT                    | 20,488 |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT                        | 7,268  |
| Blackpool PCT                                    | 6,566  |
| Bolton PCT                                       | 12,684 |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT               | 5,693  |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT               | 21,858 |
| Brent Teaching PCT                               | 18,820 |
| Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT              | 4,194  |
| Bristol PCT                                      | 15,582 |
| Bromley PCT                                      | 9,978  |
| Buckinghamshire PCT                              | 8,456  |
| Bury PCT                                         | 7,359  |

| Administrative and clerical staff |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Name                              | £000   |
| Calderdale PCT                    | 7,551  |
| Cambridgeshire PCT                | 12,960 |
| Camden PCT                        | 37,919 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT  | 16,578 |
| Central Lancashire PCT            | 14,481 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT     | 14,542 |
| Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT  | 9,550  |
| County Durham PCT                 | 9,723  |
| Coventry Teaching PCT             | 12,008 |
| Croydon PCT                       | 13,524 |
| Cumbria Teaching PCT              | 10,009 |
| Darlington PCT                    | 12,818 |
| Derby City PCT                    | 8,290  |
| Derbyshire County PCT             | 15,324 |
| Devon PCT                         | 16,890 |
| Doncaster PCT                     | 14,984 |
| Dorset PCT                        | 10,730 |
| Dudley PCT                        | 11,241 |
| Ealing PCT                        | 20,064 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT  | 14,797 |
| East Lancashire Teaching PCT      | 15,156 |
| East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT      | 4,691  |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT   | 9,265  |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT      | 21,915 |
| Enfield PCT                       | 16,803 |
| Gateshead PCT                     | 5,967  |
| Gloucestershire PCT               | 14,662 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT    | 8,335  |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT            | 9,748  |
| Halton and St Helens PCT          | 12,763 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT        | 6,706  |
| Hampshire PCT                     | 25,269 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT             | 6,134  |
| Harrow PCT                        | 4,262  |
| Hartlepool PCT                    | 622    |
| Hastings and Rother PCT           | 3,958  |
| Havering PCT                      | 17,061 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT  | 14,213 |



| Administrative and clerical staff           |        | Administrative and clerical staff                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Name                                        | £000   | Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | £000   |
| Herefordshire PCT                           | 15,241 | Southampton City PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 14,612 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT         | 9,253  | Southwark PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 8,275  |
| Hillingdon PCT                              | 7,308  | Stockport PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 8,094  |
| Hounslow PCT                                | 7,797  | Stockton-On-Tees Teaching PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2,129  |
| Hull Teaching PCT                           | 15,701 | Stoke On Trent PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 11,131 |
| Isle of Wight NHS PCT                       | 12,750 | Suffolk PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 7,411  |
| Islington PCT                               | 12,217 | Sunderland Teaching PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 11,996 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT                  | 19,016 | Surrey PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 17,833 |
| Kingston PCT                                | 2,669  | Sutton and Merton PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7,460  |
| Kirklees PCT                                | 8,089  | Swindon PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3,698  |
| Knowsley PCT                                | 8,534  | Tameside and Glossop PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 10,937 |
| Lambeth PCT                                 | 16,519 | Telford and Wrekin PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 7,065  |
| Leeds PCT                                   | 20,264 | Torbay Care PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 8,713  |
| Leicester City PCT                          | 10,506 | Tower Hamlets PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 23,311 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT       | 19,272 | Trafford PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 5,514  |
| Lewisham PCT                                | 11,800 | Wakefield District PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 16,440 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT                   | 18,557 | Walsall Teaching PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 13,549 |
| Liverpool PCT                               | 36,128 | Waltham Forest PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 6,557  |
| Luton Teaching PCT                          | 7,306  | Wandsworth PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 15,699 |
| Manchester PCT                              | 24,011 | Warrington PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 7,608  |
| Medway PCT                                  | 12,519 | Warwickshire PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 15,693 |
| Mid Essex PCT                               | 9,131  | West Essex PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 6,316  |
| Middlesbrough PCT                           | 4,689  | West Hertfordshire PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 8,896  |
| Milton Keynes PCT                           | 9,640  | West Kent PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 15,093 |
| Newcastle PCT                               | 13,117 | West Sussex PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 27,564 |
| Newham PCT                                  | 11,821 | Western Cheshire PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 7,826  |
| Norfolk PCT                                 | 18,523 | Westminster PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 13,266 |
| North East Essex PCT                        | 12,568 | Wiltshire PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 10,529 |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus PCT | 9,016  | Wirral PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 15,372 |
| North Lancashire Teaching PCT               | 10,896 | Wolverhampton City PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 19,624 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT                      | 2,494  | Worcestershire PCT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 10,571 |
| North Somerset PCT                          | 2,234  | <i>Source:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |
| North Staffordshire PCT                     | 4,705  | 2009-10 Financial Returns of primary care trusts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        |
| North Tyneside PCT                          | 3,149  | <b>Reconfiguration Panel</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |        |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT                | 16,341 | <b>John Pugh:</b> To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reconfiguration proposals have been referred to the Reconfiguration Panel in the last 12 months. [39163]                                                                                                |        |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT               | 19,212 | <b>Mr Simon Burns:</b> The Secretary of State for Health has referred five reconfiguration proposals to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in the last 12 months, following formal referrals to him by local overview and scrutiny committees. The five schemes are: |        |
| Northumberland Care PCT                     | 3,799  | Health for northeast London                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        |
| Nottingham City PCT                         | 10,105 | Changes to Women and Children's services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust                                                                                                                                                                                     |        |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT         | 18,601 | Changes to Homeopathy services in Sefton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |        |
| Oldham PCT                                  | 7,767  | Portsmouth (closure of end of life care ward)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |
| Oxfordshire PCT                             | 9,510  | Meeting Patients' Needs (changes to health services in East Lancashire)                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |
| Peterborough PCT                            | 13,337 | <b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases: East Sussex</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        |
| Plymouth Teaching PCT                       | 9,863  | <b>Simon Kirby:</b> To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had recent discussions with the (a) Brighton and Hove and (b) North Down and Weald primary care trust on approaches to limiting the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases. [39196]        |        |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT                | 11,403 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Redbridge PCT                               | 4,720  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Redcar and Cleveland PCT                    | 4,445  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT                 | 5,287  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Rotherham PCT                               | 9,761  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Salford PCT                                 | 12,827 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Sandwell PCT                                | 11,514 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Sefton PCT                                  | 10,606 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Sheffield PCT                               | 15,919 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Shropshire County PCT                       | 4,793  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Solihull NHS Care Trust PCT                 | 5,070  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Somerset PCT                                | 10,036 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| South Birmingham PCT                        | 19,795 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| South East Essex PCT                        | 8,010  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| South Gloucestershire PCT                   | 3,053  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| South Staffordshire PCT                     | 13,800 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| South Tyneside PCT                          | 5,044  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| South West Essex PCT                        | 15,557 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |

**Anne Milton:** Performance on the two indicators in the NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 of 'Access to a GUM clinic within 48 hours' and 'Chlamydia screening of 16-24 year olds', which relate to tackling the spread of sexually transmitted infections, is raised at regular meetings between the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority and the performance delivery team at the Department of Health as part of performance discussions on key indicators in the NHS Operating Framework.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39265]

**Alistair Burt:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

### Kashmir: Al-Qaeda

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the presence of al-Qaeda in Kashmir. [38992]

**Alistair Burt:** We cannot confirm that al-Qaeda has a direct presence in Kashmir but we recognise that al-Qaeda poses a significant threat by directing other groups, networks and individuals to mount attacks in all areas in South Asia as well as against UK interests. There is a history of militant activity on both sides of the Line of Control. We continue to call for an end to external support for violence in Kashmir.

The UK works closely with the Governments of Pakistan and India to tackle terrorism and violent extremism which threatens all our interests. UK funding also supports human rights, conflict prevention and peace building efforts on both sides of the Line of Control.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with (a) his Israeli counterpart and (b) the Palestinian Authority on trends in the conduct of administration by Hamas of the Gaza Strip; [39345]

(2) what recent reports he has received on the (a) number and (b) range of missiles available to Hamas; [39346]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of (a) the number of missiles held by Hamas and (b) their range in each year since 2005. [39348]

**Alistair Burt:** We maintain regular discussion with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority on a wide range of issues, including the situation in Gaza.

We are concerned by reports that Hamas continue to acquire and test a variety of weapons. This is a continuing picture and we are not able to comment further on the detail. However, we have long made it clear that the arming and funding of Hamas and other Palestinian rejectionist groups is unacceptable.

We continue to call on Hamas to take concrete steps towards the Quartet principles: renouncing violence, recognising Israel and accepting previously signed agreements.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of steps taken by (a) Egypt, (b) Jordan and (c) Saudi Arabia on implementing the confidence measures towards Israel proposed by the EU External Relations Council at its meeting of 15 June 2009. [39347]

**Alistair Burt:** While we have not held discussions with EU counterparts specifically on using the Association Agreement to encourage these countries to recognise Israel, regional integration and co-operation are important parts of European Union Association Agreements and the wider Neighbourhood policy. The External Action Service and European Commission undertake assessments of progress against association agreements. This includes information on regional co-operation.

The latest assessments by country are at:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm)

Regarding Israel specifically, our position is set out in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of December 2010, which noted:

"The EU recalls that peace in the Middle East should be comprehensive and reiterates the importance of negotiations on the Israel-Syria and Israel-Lebanon tracks. Peace should lead to the full integration of Israel in its regional environment, along the lines set out in the Arab Peace Initiative".

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the potential use of the EU's Association Agreement with Lebanon as a means to encourage Lebanon to recognise Israel. [39350]

**Alistair Burt:** We have not held discussions with EU counterparts specifically on using the Association Agreement to encourage Lebanon to recognise Israel. The EU-Lebanon Action Plan, which implements the Association Agreement, has as an objective the further development of co-operation between the EU and Lebanon in the context of the middle east peace process, which is pursued on the ground and in Brussels.

The latest assessments by country are at:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm)

Regarding Israel specifically, our position is set out in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of December 2010, which noted:

"The EU recalls that peace in the Middle East should be comprehensive and reiterates the importance of negotiations on the Israel-Syria and Israel-Lebanon tracks. Peace should lead to the full integration of Israel in its regional environment, along the lines set out in the Arab Peace Initiative".

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the potential use of the EU's Association Agreement with Tunisia as a means to encourage Tunisia to recognise Israel. ↵ [39351]

**Alistair Burt:** While we have not held discussions with EU counterparts specifically on using the Association Agreement to encourage Tunisia to recognise Israel, regional integration and co-operation are important parts of European Union Association Agreements and the wider Neighbourhood policy. The External Action Service and European Commission undertake assessments of progress against association agreements. This includes information on regional co-operation.

The latest assessments by country are at:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm)

Regarding Israel specifically, our position is set out in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of December 2010, which noted:

"The EU recalls that peace in the Middle East should be comprehensive and reiterates the importance of negotiations on the Israel-Syria and Israel-Lebanon tracks. Peace should lead to the full integration of Israel in its regional environment, along the lines set out in the Arab Peace Initiative".

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the potential use of the EU's Association Agreement with Morocco as a means to encourage Algeria to recognise Israel; [39352]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the potential use of the EU's Association Agreement with Algeria as a means to encourage Algeria to recognise Israel. [39353]

**Alistair Burt:** While we have not held discussions with EU counterparts specifically on using the Association Agreement to encourage Morocco to recognise Israel, regional integration and co-operation are important parts of European Union Association Agreements and the wider Neighbourhood policy. The External Action Service and European Commission undertake assessments of progress against association agreements. This includes information on regional co-operation.

The latest assessments by country are at:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm)

Regarding Israel specifically, our position is set out in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of December 2010, which noted:

"The EU recalls that peace in the Middle East should be comprehensive and reiterates the importance of negotiations on the Israel-Syria and Israel-Lebanon tracks. Peace should lead to the full integration of Israel in its regional environment, along the lines set out in the Arab Peace Initiative".

## CABINET OFFICE

### Arts and Sports: Public Participation

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess effects of long-term trends in attendance at (a) rock and pop concerts, (b) shows, (c) theatre, (d) football matches, (e) rugby matches and (f) cricket matches on social cohesion; and if he will make a statement. [39008]

**John Penrose:** I have been asked to reply.

While there are several small-scale studies suggesting a positive benefit on social cohesion of attendance at cultural and sporting events, there is little robust evidence demonstrating the scale of impact or how sport and culture can be best used to promote it. The DCMS-led Culture and Sporting Evidence programme (CASE), run jointly with our main arm's length bodies, aims to provide better evidence on the benefits of engagement in culture and sport. So far we have identified and quantified health and learning impacts, but are collecting data on behaviour change over time to assess a wider range of outcomes including social cohesion.

### Sports: Community Development

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the role played by team sports in developing community cohesion and civic society. [39007]

**Hugh Robertson:** I have been asked to reply.

While there are several small-scale studies suggesting positive benefits of team sports in developing community cohesion and civic society, there is little robust evidence demonstrating the scale of impact. The DCMS-led Culture and Sporting Evidence programme (CASE), run jointly with our main arm's length bodies, aims to provide better evidence on the benefits of engagement in culture and sport. So far we have identified and quantified health and learning impacts, but are collecting data on behaviour change over time to assess a wider range of outcomes including social cohesion.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Feed-in Tariff

21. **Claire Perry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he has made on the feed-in tariff review; and if he will make a statement. [39430]

**Gregory Barker:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Monmouth (David T. C. Davies) today.

### Winter Weather

22. **Mr Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what advice he has received from the Met Office about likely weather conditions in the winter of 2010-11. [39431]



**Gregory Barker:** Near the end of each month (October to January) the Met Office provided forecasts for three months ahead to Cabinet Office. These were shared with the Department.

In each of these forecasts, the most likely scenario for northern Europe was that the following three months would be colder and drier than normal. The October forecast indicated an increased risk of a cold, wintry start.

#### Low-carbon Technologies

**23. Ian Lavery:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to stimulate the development of low-carbon technologies; and if he will make a statement. [39432]

**Gregory Barker:** In addition to supporting the renewables obligation, DECC has secured over £200 million from the spending review to support innovation in low-carbon technologies. This includes offshore wind technology and manufacturing infrastructure at port sites.

However, the total science budget, which includes other low carbon investment is £4.6 billion.

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met (a) the Chancellor of the Exchequer and (b) the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss operational models for attracting private sector investment into low-carbon technologies. [39426]

**Gregory Barker:** Ministers in DECC have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on new ways in which Government can attract private sector investment into low carbon technologies. This includes discussions on the potential form and functions of Europe's first Green Investment Bank as part of the coalition Government's commitment towards a green growth agenda.

#### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each devolved Administration in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39397]

**Gregory Barker:** In the 2010 Spending Review changes in the budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the year 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 Spending Review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the year 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the public expenditure statistical analyses (PESA) supplementary material on the Treasury's website.

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the main and supplementary estimates.

#### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to abolish his Department. [39709]

**Gregory Barker:** No.

#### Energy: EU Action

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to support the development of a European supergrid. [38769]

**Charles Hendry:** Through the North Seas Offshore Grid Initiative the Government are working with nine other countries to explore how we might better co-ordinate offshore grid development in the North, Irish and Baltic seas so that we can make the most of our renewable energy resources. The aim is to address the planning, market, regulatory and technical challenges presented by such offshore grid development and create the right framework for industry to invest in future projects. This initiative will not only pave the way for delivery of the North Seas Offshore Grid, but could also help remove the barriers to the other large-scale cross-border infrastructure projects across the EU which together will form the EU supergrid of the future. The Government are also discussing with fellow members of the British-Irish Council the possibility of an 'All Islands Approach' to maximising the renewable energy potential around the British Isles, which could involve working together to assess the opportunity for joint renewables projects, better co-ordinating network development and tackling any barriers to greater co-operation.

#### Energy: Prices

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the change in the number of people who will be classified as fuel poor as a result of increase in energy prices arising from the Renewables Obligation in each of the next five years. [39650]

**Gregory Barker:** There have been no recent estimates made as to the effect on the increase in the level of energy generated from renewable sources will have on the number of people in fuel poverty.

Government are mindful of the need to strike a balance between increasing costs on customers' bills and providing measures to tackle fuel poverty.

#### Fuel Poverty

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 524W, on fuel poverty, what the (a) number and (b) proportion of households in fuel poverty in each Government office region was in each year from 2000 to 2007. [39921]

**Gregory Barker:** The following table shows the number of households in fuel poverty in each Government office region in England and Wales for each of the years between 2003 and 2007. This information is only available from 2003 onwards.

| Government office region | Thousand |      |      |      |      |
|--------------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|
|                          | 2003     | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| North East               | 95       | 103  | 126  | 179  | 207  |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 180      | 163  | 169  | 273  | 334  |
| North West               | 178      | 190  | 268  | 415  | 473  |
| East Midlands            | 112      | 101  | 145  | 236  | 272  |
| West Midlands            | 146      | 153  | 197  | 304  | 383  |
| South West               | 139      | 134  | 181  | 256  | 259  |
| East of England          | 115      | 141  | 155  | 224  | 253  |
| South East               | 149      | 133  | 169  | 291  | 333  |
| London                   | 108      | 119  | 120  | 254  | 309  |
| Wales                    | n/a      | 134  | 166  | 243  | n/a  |

n/a = not available

The equivalent figures for Scotland are shown in the following table. These data are available for 2002 onwards.

|          | Thousand |         |         |         |      |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|------|
|          | 2002     | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2007 |
| Scotland | 293      | 350     | 419     | 543     | 586  |

The following tables show the proportion of households in fuel poverty in each Government office region.

| Government office region | Percentage |      |      |      |      |
|--------------------------|------------|------|------|------|------|
|                          | 2003       | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| North East               | 8.7        | 9.5  | 11.5 | 16.4 | 18.7 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 8.6        | 7.7  | 8    | 12.7 | 15.5 |
| North West               | 6.3        | 6.6  | 9.2  | 14.2 | 16.2 |
| East Midlands            | 6.3        | 5.7  | 8.1  | 12.9 | 14.8 |
| West Midlands            | 6.7        | 7    | 8.9  | 13.7 | 17.2 |
| South West               | 6.5        | 6.2  | 8.3  | 11.6 | 11.7 |
| East of England          | 5.1        | 6.1  | 6.7  | 9.7  | 10.8 |
| South East               | 4.4        | 3.9  | 4.9  | 8.5  | 9.5  |
| London                   | 3.6        | 3.9  | 3.9  | 8.3  | 10   |
| Wales                    | n/a        | 11   | 14   | 20   | n/a  |

n/a = Not available

|          | Percentage |         |         |         |      |
|----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|------|
|          | 2002       | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2007 |
| Scotland | 13.4       | 15.4    | 18.2    | 23.5    | 25.3 |

#### Fuel Poverty: Natural Gas

**Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in fuel poverty which do not have a mains gas connection. [39507]

**Gregory Barker:** In England in 2008, the latest year for which these figures are available, around 22% of households in fuel poverty did not have a mains gas connection.

#### Natural Gas: Safety

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 742W, on natural gas: escapes, if he will assess the effect of the practice of (a) Ofgem and (b) the Health and Safety Executive on gathering data on (i) the number of gas escapes awaiting repair and (ii) the monthly number of reported gas escapes on the likely effectiveness of their joint review of the gas main replacement programme. [39367]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government welcome the review of the gas mains replacement programme by Ofgem and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and expect all relevant data to be taken into account (including records of gas escapes, repairs, costs, etc.). The Government look forward to Ofgem and the HSE reporting in due course.

#### Nuclear Power: Finance

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that new nuclear power stations do not receive public subsidy; and if he will make a statement. [39417]

**Charles Hendry:** It is the Government's policy to enable energy companies to invest in new nuclear power without public subsidy. Government set out what they mean by no public subsidy in a written statement on 18 October.

#### Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 981W, on Sheffield Forgemasters: finance, whether any formal discussions were held prior to the decision to withdraw the loan to Sheffield Forgemasters. [38273]

**Mr Prisk:** I have been asked to reply.

No formal discussions were held between the Department and Sheffield Forgemasters prior to the decision not to proceed with the loan.

#### Solar Power

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with ministerial colleagues steps to restrict the construction of solar parks on brownfield sites. [37470]

**Gregory Barker:** The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), regularly discusses all aspects of his portfolio with ministerial colleagues.

**Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs**

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether solar photovoltaics installed in social housing will be covered by the first review of the feed-in tariffs scheme. [39759]

**Gregory Barker:** The comprehensive review of Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) announced on 7 February 2011 will consider all aspects of the FITs scheme, including photovoltaics for all bands and applications, including social housing. It will report before the end of this year for implementation in April 2012. The review will also include specific fast-track consideration of large-scale solar photovoltaic installations of more than 50 kW and fast-track consideration of farm based anaerobic digestion.

The starting point for determining whether an installation would fall above or below the 50 kW threshold is the existing FITs legislation. On this basis, the review of tariffs for installations below 50 kW would not be

fast-tracked. This is regardless of whether they are installed on private housing or social housing.

The Government fully supports "rent roof" models (third party ownership financial packages), especially in the context of opening up the benefits of FITs to those living in social housing. However, the effectiveness and costs of all elements of the FITs scheme will be considered as part of the comprehensive review which will be tasked with improving the scheme to deliver both greater long term certainty to industry and investors and also value for money to consumers.

**Wind Power: Planning Permission**

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many decisions on offshore wind farms are pending under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. [38657]

**Charles Hendry:** There are four section 36 consent applications for offshore wind farms that have yet to be determined by DECC Ministers.



## Written Answers to Questions

Friday 11 February 2011

### TRANSPORT

#### Bus Lanes

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to instruct or encourage local authorities to (a) allow taxis, motorcycles and electrically-powered vehicles into bus lanes and (b) remove non-contra-flow bus lane restrictions at non-peak times. [38697]

**Norman Baker** [holding answer 8 February 2011]: Bus lanes are provided to give buses priority at times of congestion. It is for local highway authorities to determine which, if any, other classes of vehicle may be allowed to use bus lanes in their area.

Decisions on bus lane operating hours are also for the local highway authority, taking into account local factors such as bus timetable frequency and patterns of traffic congestion. Many bus lanes operate at peak hours only, and outside these hours, any vehicle can use the lane.

#### Motor Vehicles: Licensing

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of requiring vehicle owners to display proof of insurance on the windscreen of their vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [37682]

**Mike Penning:** A system of requiring vehicles to display evidence that a vehicle is insured by means of a windscreen disc has been considered. However, UK law requires the driver to be insured, rather than the vehicle; a disc would not guarantee that the person behind the wheel was insured to drive. In addition, the disc would only be evidence that somebody had insurance cover for the use of the vehicle at the time when the disc was issued and would not demonstrate whether insurance was currently valid.

#### Network Rail: Electrification

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Network Rail completes the planned electrification of rail lines between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool; and what estimate he has made of the likely (a) cost to the public purse and (b) completion date of the project. [37612]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport and the Office of Rail Regulation meet Network Rail formally every month to discuss the progress of the electrification programme. I expect that the first electric trains will start running in 2013 and the project will be completed by 2016 at an estimated cost of up to £300 million. This will be funded using the Network Rail Regulated Asset

Base, which is financed as part of the five-yearly determinations by the Office of Rail Regulation that establish the grant paid to Network Rail by the Department.

#### Railways: Franchising

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to encourage rail freight under future franchise obligations. [35995]

**Mrs Villiers:** There are no plans to introduce a measure to encourage rail freight in passenger franchise obligations. However, the Department will take freight into full account in franchise specification, and in any reforms to Network Rail and operator relationships that may be implemented as a result of Sir Roy McNulty's recommendations on value for money.

#### Railways: Lowestoft

**Peter Aldous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely economic effects on Lowestoft of the removal of direct train services from Lowestoft to London; [33161]

(2) whether he has assessed the merits of including a requirement to return to direct services from Lowestoft to London in discussions on the renewal of the Great Anglia rail franchise. [33162]

**Mrs Villiers:** Direct services between London and Lowestoft ceased operation in December 2010. This was part of a wider package of service changes which provided more seats across the Anglia network as a whole. The analysis carried out by the Department for Transport focused on the financial impact across the whole franchise. It did not carry out a specific analysis of the impact on Lowestoft.

The Department for Transport does not intend to include a specific provision about through services between Lowestoft and London in the new long-term Greater Anglia franchise. Bidders will, however, be encouraged to develop timetable proposals which maximise the value of the franchise and the benefit for passengers. It is possible that these might include new journey opportunities should there be a case for doing so.

#### Rescue Services: Helicopters

**Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what potential procurement options are now in place for search and rescue helicopters in the UK; whether these options include maintaining continuity of search and rescue services in the short and mid-term; and if he will make a statement. [39874]

**Mike Penning:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made to the House by the Secretary of State for Transport on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 7WS. The Department for Transport and the Ministry of Defence will now consider the potential procurement options to meet future requirements for search and rescue helicopters in the United Kingdom and we will make an announcement once a way forward has been agreed.

### Rolling Stock: North West England

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to make (a) new and (b) additional rolling stock available to operate on electrified rail lines between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool. [37613]

**Mrs Villiers:** It is currently planned that the rail industry will lead on the procurement of new trains for Manchester airport to Preston and Scotland services due to operate from December 2013 and that the remainder of electrified services are expected to be operated by cascaded electric trains freed up as a result of the Thameslink project.

### Sea Rescue: Information and Communications Technology

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of changing information technology infrastructure as part of the proposed reorganisation of coastal emergency services. [39486]

**Mike Penning:** The proposal to reorganise HM Coastguard is not based on implementing new technology. The technology element of this programme uses the latest version of existing technology currently installed in the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres. It seeks to fully exploit functionality that is currently not used.

The total capital cost of the rationalised HM Coastguard infrastructure over the four-year period (2011-12 to 2014-15) and 25 years is £14 million and £74 million respectively. Of these figures the information technology infrastructure element is £2.5 million over the four-year period (2011-12 to 2014-15) and £12.6 million over 25 years. These figures include capital spend of £0.65 million over the four-year period (2011-12 to 2014-15) and £3.5 million over 25 years which is not directly delivering, but necessary for, the changes as outlined in the document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century'. The remaining capital costs relate to the reconfiguring of the HM Coastguard communications infrastructure and estate.

A copy of the consultation document is available both in the Libraries of the House and on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency website at:

[www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has undertaken a cost-benefit analysis in respect of the change of information technology infrastructure as part of the proposed reorganisation of coastal emergency services. [39487]

**Mike Penning:** The proposal to reorganise HM Coastguard is not based on implementing new technology. The technology element of this programme uses the latest version of existing technology currently installed in the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres. It seeks to fully exploit functionality that is currently not used.

The cost/benefit of the refresh, together with other factors, was taken into account in the efficiency and value for money assessment set out at pages 37 and 38 of the consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century'.

All elements of this proposal would deliver a fully integrated national network that can be more resilient and more capable of managing a major incident with the flexibility to match workforce to workload. This will at the same time reduce long term running costs and capital expenditure and generate a total saving, in net present value terms, of some £120 million over 25 years.

### Sea Rescue: Northern Ireland

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the (a) Office of the First and Deputy First Minister, (b) Northern Ireland Coastguard and (c) Irish Coast Guard on the HM Coastguard Proposals for Modernisation consultation. [39498]

**Mike Penning:** I am to visit staff at the Belfast Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre on 17 February 2011 to discuss the HM Coastguard proposals for modernising the Coastguard. I will be meeting both the First and Deputy First Ministers on the same day.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency are arranging a briefing session through the Office of the First and Deputy First Ministers for Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly. In addition, they have regular discussions with the Director of the Irish Coastguard on coastguard issues including on the proposals for modernisation.

### Shipping: Inspections

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many (a) UK-registered ships and (b) foreign-flagged ships were inspected by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in each of the last 12 months; what the country of registration was of each such foreign-flagged ship; at what location each such inspection took place; and whether prior notice of inspection was given in each instance. [31951]

**Mike Penning:** [holding answer 20 December 2010]: During the last 12 months the total number of UK registered ships inspected was 7,103 and the total number of foreign flagged ships was 2,324.

Prior notice is not normally given for an inspection. However, in the case of UK registered vessels, prior notice is given if an inspection is to be carried out in conjunction with a survey. However the number of such cases is not held.

In view of the quantity of data involved and the detailed information requested, I have asked it to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations apply to pilots remotely flying unmanned aircraft in UK airspace that is under the jurisdiction of the Civil Aviation Authority from within a foreign nation. [37636]

**Mrs Villiers:** The regulations applicable to the operation of unmanned aircraft in UK airspace are explained in the Civil Aviation Authority's publication CAP 722: Unmanned Aircraft System Operations in UK Airspace—Guidance. This can be downloaded from:

[www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)

## EDUCATION

## Departmental Libraries

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many (a) certified and (b) chartered librarians his Department and its predecessors have employed in each year since 2000. [37648]

**Tim Loughton:** Information on librarians who hold Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) approved academic qualifications, including certified and chartered status, in the Department and its predecessors is set out in the following table:

|         | - Permanent | Temporary agency contract |
|---------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2002-03 | 17          | 1                         |
| 2003-04 | 18          | 3                         |
| 2004-05 | 18          | 1                         |
| 2005-06 | 21          | 7                         |
| 2006-07 | 19          | 4                         |
| 2007-08 | 15          | 3                         |
| 2008-09 | 8           | 2                         |
| 2009-10 | 8           | 0                         |
| 2010-11 | 8           | 0                         |

Information before 2002-03 is not available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what (a) directorates and (b) teams there are in his Department; what the responsibility of each is for (i) policy formation and (ii) policy delivery; and how many people at each payband work in each team. [38973]

**Tim Loughton:** The information on the Department's structure, responsibilities and policy objectives can be found on its website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/about/departmental-information/transparency/b0065313/disclosure-of-scs-posts-and-salary-information/>

## DEFENCE

## Armed Forces: Education

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 980W, on armed forces: education, what figures have been provided to his Department by (a) the Department for Education and (b) the Scottish Executive on the likely capacity to receive children of returning service personnel of schools situated in the vicinity of each base considered for the stationing of such personnel to be withdrawn from Germany; and if he will publish the data he has received. [40450]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence has not received any figures on the likely capacity of schools situated in the vicinity of each base considered for the stationing of armed forces personnel to be withdrawn from Germany, to receive children of returning troops.

No basing decisions have yet been made, but we will consult fully with the relevant authorities as our plans mature.

## Army

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the establishment and structure of the infantry is; and what its establishment will be after the implementation of the outcome of the strategic defence and security review. [40248]

**Nick Harvey:** The total liability for all infantry personnel is 24,631.

The regiments that make up the infantry are as follows:

| Division        | Unit                               |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Guards          | 1 Grenadier Guards                 |
|                 | 1 Coldstream Guards                |
|                 | 1 SCOTS Guards                     |
|                 | 1 Irish Guards                     |
|                 | 1 Welsh Guards                     |
| SCOTS           | 1 SCOTS                            |
|                 | 2 SCOTS                            |
|                 | 3 SCOTS                            |
|                 | 4 SCOTS                            |
|                 | 5 SCOTS                            |
| Queen's         | 1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment |
|                 | 2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment |
|                 | 1 Royal Regt Fusiliers             |
|                 | 2 Royal Regt Fusiliers             |
|                 | 1 Royal Anglian                    |
| King's          | 2 Royal Anglian                    |
|                 | 1 LANCS                            |
|                 | 2 LANCS                            |
|                 | 1 YORKS                            |
|                 | 2 YORKS                            |
| Prince of Wales | 3 YORKS                            |
|                 | 1 Mercian                          |
|                 | 2 Mercian                          |
|                 | 3 Mercian                          |
|                 | 1 Royal Welsh                      |
| RIFLES          | 2 Royal Welsh                      |
|                 | 1 RIFLES                           |
|                 | 2 RIFLES                           |
|                 | 3 RIFLES                           |
|                 | 4 RIFLES                           |
| Royal Irish     | 5 RIFLES                           |
|                 | 1 Royal Irish                      |
| PARA            | 1 PARA                             |
|                 | 2 PARA                             |
|                 | 3 PARA                             |



In addition to the battalions shown above, there are three incremental guards companies whose primary role is public duties but which can also be used to augment the other guards battalions as required:

Nijmegen Coy Grenadier Guards

7 Coy Coldstream Guards

F Coy SCOTS Guards

The total liability over the next four years is still subject to ongoing work implementing the strategic defence and security review.

#### Caribbean: Navy

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list all seizures of narcotics by the

Royal Navy in the Caribbean in each of the last five years. [40260]

**Nick Harvey:** The primary purposes of the Royal Navy's deployment to the Caribbean (Atlantic Patrol Task (North)) are the promotion of UK interests in the region and the provision of security to UK Overseas Territories, including support to humanitarian operations and disaster relief. Counter-narcotic activities are carried out as operational commitments and resources allow and we will continue to provide this capability through the use of a Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) vessel enhanced with an additional naval party, a helicopter and law enforcement detachment.

The information requested regarding seizures of narcotics is provided in the following table:

|      | Month     | Unit                                         | Quantity                                                                                               | Estimated value (£ million) |
|------|-----------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2006 | February  | HMS Southampton/RFA Grey Rover               | 2.223 tonnes cocaine. Further 2 tonnes assessed jettisoned by the smugglers                            | 169                         |
|      | September | RFA Wave Ruler                               | 2.5 tonnes cocaine                                                                                     | 100                         |
|      | October   | RFA Wave Ruler                               | 2.789 tonnes cocaine                                                                                   | 112                         |
|      | November  | RFA Wave Ruler                               | 4.0 tonnes cocaine                                                                                     | 160                         |
|      | November  | RFA Wave Ruler                               | 2.04 tonnes cocaine                                                                                    | 82                          |
| 2007 | May       | HMS Ocean                                    | 12 bales cocaine                                                                                       | —                           |
|      | June      | HMS Ocean                                    | 328 kg cocaine; 20 kg heroin                                                                           | 14                          |
|      | October   | HMS Portland/RFA Wave Knight                 | 3.3 tonnes (assessed) cocaine (jettisoned by smugglers)                                                | 132                         |
|      | December  | RFA Largs Bay                                | 1.125 tonnes cocaine                                                                                   | 45                          |
| 2008 | June      | HMS Iron Duke                                | 1.125 tonnes cocaine                                                                                   | 45                          |
|      | July      | HMS Iron Duke                                | 1.2 tonnes (assessed) cocaine (jettisoned by smugglers)                                                | 48                          |
|      | July      | HMS Iron Duke                                | 2,477 coca field plants sighted from helicopter survey                                                 | n/a                         |
| 2009 | July      | HMS Iron Duke/US Coastguard                  | 0.75 tonne cocaine                                                                                     | 33                          |
|      | August    | HMS Iron Duke/US Coastguard                  | 150 kg (assessed) cocaine (jettisoned by smugglers)                                                    | 6                           |
|      | September | HMS Iron Duke                                | 5.5 tonnes cocaine                                                                                     | 240                         |
| 2010 | June      | HMS Manchester/Royal Montserrat Police (RMP) | 12 bales of illicit substance assessed to be marijuana estimated to weigh 500 lbs                      | 11.5                        |
|      | October   | HMS Manchester                               | 8 bales cocaine jettisoned by smugglers (2 at 30 kg each retrieved, 6 sank). Estimated total of 240 kg | 12                          |

<sup>1</sup> Assessed by RMP.

Notes:

1. Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) estimates, as at June 2009, of UK street values have been applied to all seizures, unless stated otherwise.

2. Where only the number of bales is known/estimated but not their weight, no street value can be estimated retrospectively.

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the likely level of savings to his Department following the withdrawal of the Royal Navy from anti-narcotic and disaster relief work in the Caribbean; [40261]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Caribbean nations on the withdrawal of the Royal Navy from anti-narcotic and disaster relief work in that region; [40262]

(3) whether he expects any further reductions in Royal Navy commitments in the next 12 months. [40264]

**Nick Harvey:** The decision not to send a destroyer or frigate to the Caribbean region during 2011 was taken on the basis of available capability and not as a savings measure. The ship that had been identified for this task will be redeployed elsewhere and will, therefore, continue to incur operational costs. The financial implications are still being assessed.

For 2011, it is assessed that a destroyer or frigate is not required for the Atlantic Patrol Task (North) and that a Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship, enhanced with a naval party, law enforcement detachment and helicopter during the core hurricane season, has the necessary capabilities to provide support to UK Overseas Territories

in the Caribbean region. This will provide a permanent presence, able to respond to the full range of foreseeable contingencies, including disaster relief, and to contribute to counter narcotics where spare capacity allows. I am confident that this will enable the UK to meet its commitment to the region and, as such, no discussions with representatives of Caribbean nations are planned.

We expect that the Royal Navy will continue to meet commitments in priority regions such as the north and south Atlantic, the Indian ocean, as well as in home waters. Maritime commitments are regularly reviewed and adjusted where necessary to reflect changing requirements.

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what disaster relief work was carried out by the Royal Navy in the Caribbean in the last five years. [40263]

**Nick Harvey:** The primary purposes of the Royal Navy's deployment to the Caribbean (Atlantic Patrol Task (North)) are the promotion of UK interests in the region and the provision of security to UK Overseas Territories, including support to humanitarian operations and disaster relief. We will continue to provide support to disaster relief through the presence of a Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) vessel.

The information requested is provided in the following table:

|      | Month          | Unit                          | Location                                                                                                                                     |
|------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2006 | August         | HMS Iron Duke/RFA Wave Ruler  | Turks and Caicos Islands. Humanitarian disaster relief contingency patrol in the wake of Tropical Storm Chris.                               |
|      | August         | HMS Iron Duke/RFA Wave Ruler  | Cayman Islands. Humanitarian disaster relief contingency patrol in the wake of Category 1 Hurricane Ernesto.                                 |
|      | September      | HMS Iron Duke                 | Bermuda. Humanitarian disaster relief contingency patrol in the wake of Hurricane Florence.                                                  |
| 2007 | August         | RFA Wave Ruler                | Montserrat and Cayman Islands. Humanitarian disaster relief contingency patrol in the wake of Hurricane Dean.                                |
|      | August         | HMS Portland/RFA Wave Ruler   | Belize. Humanitarian disaster relief operation ashore in Belize in wake of Hurricane Dean.                                                   |
|      | September      | HMS Portland                  | Barbados. Humanitarian disaster relief contingency patrol in the wake of Hurricane Felix.                                                    |
|      | November       | RFA Wave Knight               | Dominican Republic. Humanitarian disaster relief operations in the wake of Tropical Storm Noel.                                              |
| 2008 | August         | RFA Wave Ruler                | Cayman Island. Humanitarian disaster relief operation ashore in the wake of Hurricane Gustav.                                                |
|      | September      | RFA Wave Ruler                | Turks and Caicos Islands. Humanitarian disaster relief operation ashore in the wake of Hurricane Ike.                                        |
|      | October        | RFA Wave Ruler                | British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Montserrat. Humanitarian disaster relief operation ashore in the wake of Hurricane Omar.                |
|      | November       | RFA Wave Ruler                | Cayman Brae and Little Cayman. Humanitarian disaster relief operation ashore in the wake of Hurricane Paloma.                                |
| 2010 | February/March | RFA Largs Bay                 | Haiti. Humanitarian disaster relief operation and support to World Food Programme and UN operations ashore in wake of earthquake.            |
|      | August         | HMS Manchester                | Eastern Caribbean. Humanitarian disaster relief contingency patrol in wake of Hurricane Earl.                                                |
|      | September      | RFA Wave Ruler                | Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Humanitarian disaster relief reassurance visit. Working party ashore to assist with clearance of mudslides. |
|      | September      | HMS Manchester                | Bermuda. Aerial survey damage assessment in the wake of Hurricane Igor.                                                                      |
|      | November       | HMS Manchester/RFA Wave Ruler | St Lucia. Humanitarian disaster relief operations ashore in the wake of Hurricane Tomas.                                                     |
|      | November       | HMS Manchester/RFA Wave Ruler | Turks and Caicos Islands. Humanitarian disaster relief contingency patrol in the wake of Hurricane Tomas.                                    |
|      | November       | RFA Wave Ruler                | Haiti. In support of US Forces conducting humanitarian disaster relief operations.                                                           |

#### Defence: Procurement

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account he takes of sustaining skills and capabilities in the UK defence industry in determining his policy on equipment procurement. [39312]

**Nick Harvey:** The Government published a Green Paper in December 2010 on "Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security: a Consultation Paper". The Green Paper asked for views on the ways in which the Government can ensure that the UK creates and retains the skills necessary to support essential

national security capabilities; which skills and capabilities are most vulnerable and what might be done to protect them. The outcomes of the current consultation process on the Green Paper will be taken forward in to a White Paper which will be published later this year.

#### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39218]

**Nick Harvey:** As at 31 January 2011, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) had published nine tenders and 10 contracts. Publication of a further 63 tenders and 72 contracts has been delayed by system issues between the contracts finder (the Efficiency Reform Group (ERG) Transparency web portal) and the MOD's information networks.

By agreement with the ERG, the MOD is currently not publishing tenders and contracts relating to: Warlike Stores (as defined under article 346 of the treaty of the functioning of the European Union), and information exempt under section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Intelligence Agency or Special Forces).

#### EU Defence Policy

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the proposal for a team of wise men on European defence co-operation considered by EU Defence Ministers in December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [39869]

**Nick Harvey:** There has been no decision yet to appoint a team of wise men. As part of the wider analysis of pooling and sharing of military capabilities in Europe, the European Defence Agency has been asked to examine proposals to take this initiative forward and to consider the use of such a team. We will study the business case for the team in due course. We are clear that work done in the EU must be co-ordinated with work under way in NATO and elsewhere.

#### European Defence Agency

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria he plans to use to assess the performance of the European Defence Agency against (a) its objectives and (b) future UK membership of the agency. [39718]

**Mr Gerald Howarth [holding answer 10 February 2011]:** We will assess whether the European Defence Agency (EDA) is supporting participating member states by delivering outputs to develop military capability. Any future UK decision regarding our membership of the EDA will be based on our national priorities and interests, including whether we are achieving value for money for the UK taxpayer through our participation.

#### France: Military Alliances

**Mr Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to implement the Defence and Security Co-operation treaty since the UK-France summit of 2 November 2010; and if he will make a statement. [37858]

**Dr Fox:** The Ministry of Defence has taken a number of early steps to implement the Defence and Security Co-operation treaty.

There have been regular bilateral discussions including between Defence Ministers, the National Security Advisor, the Chief of Defence Staff, and the Vice Chief of Defence Staff and their counterparts. We have discussed

co-operation in the areas of operations, equipment, and capabilities. We have agreed a set of common objectives for this calendar year.

We will build on the existing close links between our armed forces in the coming months with a number of bilateral exercises with France aimed at increasing the levels of interoperability between our armed forces.

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any other nations apart from France and the UK may be involved in the Franco-British joint brigade announced in November 2010; and on what basis. [39524]

**Dr Fox [holding answer 10 February 2011]:** We confirmed at last year's bilateral summit that we would develop a Combined Joint Expeditionary Force with France and not a Brigade. It will foster closer links between our armed forces and improve their ability to deploy together on operations in the future. It will not involve standing forces. We currently have no plans to involve other nations in this initiative.

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress has been achieved by the Senior Level Group on Franco-British defence co-operation to date; and if he will make a statement; [39716]

(2) on how many occasions the Senior Level Group on Franco-British defence co-operation has met. [39717]

**Dr Fox [holding answer 10 February 2011]:** Since the UK-France summit last November there have been regular bilateral discussions on defence and security co-operation with France including between Defence Ministers, the National Security Advisor, the Chief of Defence Staff, and the Vice Chief of Defence Staff and their counterparts. The Senior Level Group will meet formally later in the year to review progress on co-operation and to prepare the defence and security elements of this year's annual bilateral summit.

#### Low Flying: Compensation

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many payments of compensation in respect of low flying have been made to recipients in (a) Wales, (b) England and (c) Scotland in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value of each such payment was. [9950]

**Nick Harvey:** The number of payments of compensation (including legal costs) made in respect of military low flying aircraft to claimants in Wales, England and Scotland in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table, together with the total amount of compensation paid. I will write to the hon. Member shortly giving details of the monetary value of each payment.

|       | 2007-08          |                 | 2008-09          |                 | 2009-10          |                 |
|-------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|       | Number of claims | Amount paid (£) | Number of claims | Amount paid (£) | Number of claims | Amount paid (£) |
| Wales | 33               | 73,662.41       | 14               | 68,890.29       | 10               | 25,583.39       |



|          | 2007-08          |                 | 2008-09          |                 | 2009-10          |                 |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|          | Number of claims | Amount paid (£) | Number of claims | Amount paid (£) | Number of claims | Amount paid (£) |
| England  | 73               | 211,287.92      | 99               | 812,626.46      | 78               | 397,301.09      |
| Scotland | 6                | 63,546.80       | 1                | 1,241.92        | 6                | 8,887.68        |

### Military Bases

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what organisational structure his Department has put in place to undertake its review of RAF bases. [39562]

**Nick Harvey:** No new organisational structures have been put in place. The work to address the range of issues affecting the Defence Estate following the strategic defence and security review is being carried out by Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian and service personnel across the Department. It is being undertaken under their normal responsibilities as part of the MOD's annual planning round.

### Rescue Services

**Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the extent of future provision of search and rescue helicopters at RAF bases; what plans he has for the future provision of such services at RAF bases; and if he will make a statement. [39873]

**Nick Harvey:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) on 8 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 7-8WS. The Department for Transport and the Ministry of Defence will now consider the potential procurement options to meet future requirements for search and rescue helicopters in the United Kingdom and we will make an announcement once a way forward has been agreed.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding from the public purse has been spent on the Joint Search and Rescue Harmonisation project to date. [40344]

**Nick Harvey:** To date a total of circa £10 million has been spent on contracts in support of the Joint Search and Rescue—Helicopter project by the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport.

### Royal Armoured Corps

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the establishment and structure of the Royal Armoured Corps is; and what its establishment will be after the implementation of the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [40250]

**Nick Harvey:** The Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps personnel are grouped as one arm because they perform similar roles. The total liability for all Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps personnel is 5,778.

The regiments that make up the Royal Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps are as follows:

- Household Cavalry Regiment
- Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment
- Queen's Dragoon Guards
- SCOTS Dragoon Guards
- Royal Dragoon Guards
- 9/12 Lancers
- Queen's Royal Hussars
- King's Royal Hussars
- Light Dragoons
- Queen's Royal Lancers
- Joint Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Regiment
- 1 Royal Tank Regiment Armoured Squadron
- 2 Royal Tank Regiment

The total liability over the next four years is still subject to ongoing work implementing the strategic defence and security review.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what permissions are required for unmanned aerial vehicle flights by aircraft over 150kg in airspace controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority. [37693]

**Mrs Villiers:** I have been asked to reply.

The regulations applicable to the operation of unmanned aircraft in UK airspace are explained in the Civil Aviation Authority's publication CAP 722: Unmanned Aircraft System Operations in UK Airspace—Guidance. This can be downloaded from:

[www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Energy: Natural Gas

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of primary energy consumption in (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Northern Ireland and (d) Wales was accounted for by natural gas in the last year for which figures are available. [39497]

**Charles Hendry:** The Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES), shows that in 2009 natural gas accounted for 39.4% of primary energy consumption in the UK. No breakdown of primary energy consumption is available for the individual UK nations.

### Fuel Oil

**Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to protect consumers from anti-competitive practices in the heating oil industry. [39528]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government are sympathetic to the plight of many heating oil consumers who were hit hard by high prices and supply issues this winter.

I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I gave on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 55WS. I am keen that the reasons for the high heating oil prices and supply issues this winter are thoroughly investigated by an independent authority. I have written to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on 19 January to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy. I also asked the OFT if the study could explore longer term consumer issues such as lifetime payback, consumer standards and labelling for alternative energy sources or supplies.

I welcome the independent assessment of the off-grid market to be made by the OFT, and we look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

#### Renewable Energy: Heating

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to publish further information on the technologies to be supported by the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme. [39427]

**Gregory Barker:** I am happy to confirm that we hope to publish details of the Renewable Heat Incentive next month.

#### Wind Power: Subsidies

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date the Government first introduced subsidies to encourage the development of wind power; and what estimate he has made of the total subsidy provided for wind power since that date. [38390]

**Charles Hendry:** The renewables obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising large scale renewables deployment. Between its introduction in April 2002 and March 2010 it has provided approximately £2.2 billion of support (in 2010-11 prices) to 34.7 million megawatt hours (MWh) of wind power generation.

The Offshore Wind Capital Grants Scheme announced in 2001 by the Department of Trade and Industry awarded capital grants totalling £97 million from the Department (of which £36.95 million was disbursed) and a further £10 million from the New Opportunities Fund in the years 2004-05 to 2009-10. Further details are available in the National Audit Office's report 'Government Funding for Renewable Energy Technologies', published in June 2010, which considered the Government's direct support for renewable energy from 2000 to 2009:

[http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/renewable\\_energy.aspx](http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/renewable_energy.aspx)

No capital grants have been made for the development of onshore wind farms as this is an established renewable technology.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

#### Art Works

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, (1) how much

funding the Commission has allocated for the acquisition of new works of art for the House of Commons art collection in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12; [39533]

(2) what recent estimate the Commission has made of the value of the House of Commons art collection. [39535]

**John Thurso:** In recent years, up to and including 2009-10, the annual allocation for acquisition of items for the House of Commons Art Collection has been £100,000. The funding allocated in 2010-11 is £50,000. The planned allocation for 2011-12 is also £50,000. The latest valuation of the works of art acquired between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2010 is £1.47 million. No valuation exists for works of art acquired before April 2000.

### WORK AND PENSIONS

#### Child Benefit

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 698W, on child benefit, whether he has now considered the full implications of the changes announced to child benefit to ensure that those entitled continue to receive national insurance credits towards their state pension; and if he will make a statement. [39335]

**Steve Webb:** We are continuing to consider the full implications of the changes announced to child benefit to ensure that those entitled continue to receive national insurance credits towards their state pension.

#### Cold Weather Payments: Dartford

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the weather station area covering Dartford constituency received cold weather payments in each of the last two years. [39042]

**Steve Webb:** The available information is given in the following table.

*Estimated number of benefit units that received at least one cold weather payment for weather stations linked to postcode districts in Dartford constituency*

| Weather station | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Charlwood       | 45,700  | 46,500  |
| Gravesend       | 118,700 | 119,400 |

#### Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, figures given are estimates. Actuals are not available. Estimates for 2010-11 may be revised after the end of the cold weather payment season, but will still be estimates not actuals.

2. A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0° C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. (When the temperature criterion is met, the weather station is said to trigger.)

3. Each of Charlwood and Gravesend weather stations is linked both to an area within Dartford constituency and also to an area outside Dartford constituency. Estimated numbers given are for the weather station as a whole, not for the part of Dartford constituency linked to the weather station.

4. Estimates of potential qualifiers for each weather station for 2010-11 were made at the beginning of the winter. Both Charlwood and Gravesend weather stations have already triggered this winter, so the estimated number of benefit units that received at least one cold weather payment in 2010-11 will not change during the rest of the winter. The estimates for 2010-11 may be revised once the national out-turn for the winter is known.

5. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
6. Some benefit units received more than one payment in a year.
7. Estimated numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

*Sources:*

1. Postcode districts in the Dartford constituency: analysis of National Statistics Postcode Directory
2. Postcode district to weather station links: Department for Work and Pensions records
3. Records of triggers and estimates of potential qualifiers by weather station: Department for Work and Pensions records

#### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39223]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has only had access to Contracts Finder from the beginning of January 2011 and thus has a backlog of cases to load. We are urgently working through the backlog and expecting to be fully up to date by March 2011.

#### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39259]

**Chris Grayling:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make regular visits to specific Government sites, subject to relevant security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of the individuals who hold such passes.

#### Employment and Support Allowance

**Dame Anne Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether claimants who have migrated from non-means-tested incapacity benefit to employment and support allowance (ESA) will lose their entitlement to contributory ESA if they have been in receipt of it for 12 months as at April 2012. [39126]

**Chris Grayling:** As part of the spending review announcement, we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) only. This includes those people who have been converted from incapacity benefits as part of the reassessment programme.

#### Employment: Kirkcaldy

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (a) young and (b) disabled people resident in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency have found employment through the New Deal in each year since 2001. [37451]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is not currently available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost within the required timescales.

I will write to the right hon. Member with the information once it is available.

#### Employment: Scotland

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely change in employment rates in Scotland among those (a) aged 16 to 24 and (b) of all age groups between (i) 2008 and 2013 and (ii) 2013 and 2020; and whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Government on their forecasts for such groups. [39274]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department does not produce forecasts of employment. The Office for Budget Responsibility publishes forecasts of employment, the most recent being in the autumn statement, but these are at United Kingdom level only, covering all age groups.

There has therefore been no discussion between the Department and the Scottish Government on the subject of youth employment forecasts for Scotland.

#### Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit: Osteoarthritis

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Central Ayrshire constituency were awarded industrial injuries disablement benefit for osteoarthritis in the latest period for which figures are available. [39604]

**Maria Miller:** Osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners, and osteoarthritis of the hip in farmers are both included within the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme.

We do not have information on the numbers of successful claims for either disease at constituency level, but can provide the numbers of successful claims for osteoarthritis of the knee in coal miners at the national level. The number of farmers paid benefit for osteoarthritis of the hip is not currently available.

Since the addition of osteoarthritis of the knee to the list of prescribed industrial diseases on 13 July 2009, 18,605 customers received an award of, or an increase in, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

This information is based on an informal count by the Jobcentre Plus offices dealing with Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit at December 2010. This information will be published in due course.

#### New Deal Schemes: Wirral

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people resident in Wirral South constituency have found employment through the New Deal in each year since 2001. [35144]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is not currently available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost within the required time scales.

I will write to the hon. Member with the information once it is available.

#### New Enterprise Allowance Scheme: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Peterborough constituency are participating in (a) the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme, (b) Work Clubs and (c) Work Choice; and if he will make a statement. [39581]



**Chris Grayling:** The new enterprise allowance is not yet available in Peterborough. Precise roll out plans are still being finalised but we intend to begin rolling out the new enterprise allowance from April. Work Clubs provide support on an entirely voluntary basis and we do not hold the information on numbers accessing individual Work Clubs. We do not gather information by constituency on numbers accessing Work Choice.

### Pension Credit

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of (a) women and (b) men receive pension credit in retirement. [40180]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is not available. The answer shows pension credit recipients expressed as a proportion of those who have reached the pension credit qualifying age.

*Number of pension credit claimants over 60 by gender as a proportion of the population aged 60 or over as at May 2010*

|         | Number in receipt of pension credit | Population figures (aged 60 and over) | Percentage of population (aged over 60) in receipt of pension credit |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Females | 1,663,690                           | 7,391,900                             | 22.5                                                                 |
| Males   | 1,070,070                           | 6,086,500                             | 17.6                                                                 |

#### Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The pension credit qualifying age is gradually increasing to 65. The current pension credit qualifying age is between 60 and three months and 60 and four months dependant upon a person's date of birth. This means a small proportion of the over 60's population will be unable to claim pension credit because they have not yet reached the qualifying age.
3. Caseload figures represent the benefit claimants, some of whom may have partners aged under 60.
4. Mid 2009 population estimates used for males and females aged 60 and over.

#### Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study  
ONS Mid 2009 Population Estimates

### Remploy: Pay

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons managers and directors of Remploy were paid bonuses for 2010. [39942]

**Maria Miller:** The coalition inherited a bonus scheme for 2010 agreed between Remploy and the previous Government.

This Government believe all Departments, including non-departmental public bodies, need to show restraint in the current economic climate. The Department, therefore, requested that Remploy apply the Government's bonus cap.

A recent employment tribunal upheld the previous Administration's remuneration settlement and found that Remploy were contractually obliged to pay the company's 2009-10 performance year bonuses. The Department therefore has no power to restrict the payment of these bonuses to Remploy managers and executives.

Notwithstanding this, all public sector bodies are reminded of the need for financial restraint and we have made clear that Remploy executives and managers should reflect this consideration in their pay and bonuses.

We are working with Remploy to ensure pay restraint is applied in future years.

### Social Security Benefits

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the level of annual savings to expenditure on benefits which will accrue from universal credit sanctions; [38672]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on attainment of the targets in the Child Poverty Act 2010 of the application of proposed sanctions in respect of universal credit contained in the White Paper on welfare reform. [38683]

**Chris Grayling:** In the Welfare Reform Bill we will be introducing a claimant commitment, which will set out the responsibilities of benefit recipients, alongside a clear and robust set of sanctions. Claimants will therefore know what they are expected to do and the consequences of failing to meet those expectations. These changes will be introduced under the current benefit system and will continue to apply under universal credit.

The proposed model of sanctions could lead to longer sanctions for some claimants, particularly claimants who have repeatedly failed to meet their responsibilities. For other claimants—those who fail to meet lower level requirements—sanctions could be shorter depending on how quickly they re-engage.

The overall effect on benefit costs will depend on the response of claimants to the proposed sanctions system. If—as is hoped—claimants are encouraged to comply in the first place and re-engage more quickly where they do fail to meet their responsibilities, there are unlikely to be any savings in comparison with the current system as a result of more sanctions being imposed. However, there could be savings from people moving off benefit more quickly as a result of greater compliance with the system.

This sort of behavioural response is difficult to predict with certainty. And at this stage it is not possible to quantify the impact of the behavioural impact of the changes.

Overall, we have estimated that universal credit will have a substantial positive impact on poverty and could lift as many as 350,000 children out of relative income poverty. This is a combined impact of all measurable universal credit factors, and does not identify the impact of the sanctions regime. This will help to meet the four 2020 income poverty targets in the Child Poverty Act.

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for future qualifying criteria for carer's allowance. [39386]

**Maria Miller:** The Government recognise that the United Kingdom's 6 million carers play an indispensable role in looking after family members or friends who need support.

The Government are currently considering whether changes to carer's allowance will be necessary to take account of the introduction of universal credit and provide clearer, more effective support for carers.

### Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the way in which medical assessments for the purposes of determining benefit suitability are carried out. [39089]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government have a commitment to commission an independent review of the work capability assessment annually for the first five years of its operation. The first of these, which was conducted by Professor Malcolm Harrington and reported last November made a substantial series of recommendations, a number of which relate to the medical assessment which we have accepted and are implementing. We have now appointed Professor Harrington to conduct a second independent review, which will also look at elements of the assessment. We look forward to receiving his recommendations later this year.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 103W, on social security benefit: medical examinations, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the suitability of a GP to provide independent advice to a patient on the determination of an entitlement to a health-related benefit; and what consideration of this issue was undertaken before publication of the NHS White Paper. [39283]

**Chris Grayling:** It would not be appropriate for GPs to fulfil this role. GPs are not routinely trained in the assessment of disability in relation to the entitlement criteria for health related benefits and are not necessarily independent insofar as their primary role is to act as an advocate for the patient.

#### State Retirement Pensions: Females

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women he estimates will be affected by the plans to accelerate the raising of the pension age for women. [39947]

**Steve Webb:** Estimates of the number of women affected by the proposed changes to the state pension age were published in the equality impact assessment that accompanied the Government's White Paper 'A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66'.

#### Universal Credit: Livingston

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effects of the introduction of the proposed universal credit in Livingston constituency. [39238]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available.

#### Work Capability Assessment: Telephone Services

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has estimated the average cost (a) in total and (b) per minute of a call from a mobile telephone to the 0800 number provided by his Department to contact Atos in relation to the work capability assessment. [39284]

**Chris Grayling:** This information is not held by the Department for Work and Pensions or Atos Healthcare as mobile phone tariffs vary depending on the type of contract the caller has with their service provider (all inclusive contract, or pay as you go etc.).

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W, on anti-Semitism, what steps he has taken to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks since June 2010; what recent meetings he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [38034]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supports the cross-government working group to tackle anti-Semitism which is chaired by the Department of Communities and Local Government and regularly receives representations from the Jewish community on issues of concern. In addition the Government published a three years on progress report to the all party parliamentary inquiry in December which highlighted the steps we have taken to combat anti-Semitism.

### BBC External Services

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what organisations he consulted prior to making the statement on the BBC World Service on 26 January 2011. [37951]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The decision by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to authorise the closure of five language services was the result of discussions with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service.

### British High Commission Dhaka

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the staff cost of the British high commission in Bangladesh (a) was in each of the last five years and (b) is projected to be in each year to 2015. [R] [38543]

**Alistair Burt:** Salary costs for our high commission in Dhaka in the financial year 2008-09 were approximately £2.76 million, for 2009-10 they were approximately £2.26 million and for 2010-11 the in-year forecast is £2.14 million. Figures for FY 2006-07 and 2007-08 are unavailable.

Staffing decisions are made on an ongoing basis therefore we are unable to provide costs up to 2015. Although year-on-year costs can vary for a variety of reasons including exchange rate fluctuations, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is continually trying to drive down costs worldwide through increased efficiencies. The fall in staff costs does not represent a reduction of the UK's effort in Bangladesh.

### Embassies: Finance

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions officials of his Department have had with their counterparts overseas on planned changes in the level of spending in embassies, high commissions and consulates. [38989]

**Alistair Burt:** In preparation for the spending review 2010, officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spoke to counterparts in other Ministries of Foreign Affairs. They used these conversations to understand the common challenges faced by the UK's diplomatic network and those of our international partners, and to exchange ideas on how to deliver an effective and efficient service. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is determined to ensure that we concentrate our resources where they are needed most, to protect and promote British interests worldwide.

#### European Council

**Mr Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the conclusions of the February 2011 European Council, what the terms are of the limited treaty change to be adopted at the March 2011 European Council. [40348]

**Mr Lidington:** The February European Council Conclusions set out that

"the March European Council will also adopt the final decision on the limited treaty change to set up the European Stability Mechanism".

The proposed treaty change is set out in the draft European Council decision of 20 December 2010 (document EUCO 33/10) which seeks to amend, using the simplified revision procedure, Article 136 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to enable member states in the euro area to set up a permanent mechanism to safeguard the financial and economic stability of the euro area as a whole. The EU document was deposited in Parliament on 22 December 2010, and submitted for scrutiny under the Explanatory Memorandum of 10 January 2011 (reference EUCO 33/10). Under the terms of the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008, parliamentary approval from both Houses is required before the Government can signal agreement to adopt the draft decision at the March European Council. We will therefore introduce a motion and look forward to debating this further before the March European Council.

#### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken with the Secretary of State for International Development in response to the political and economic situation in Somalia. [38991]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Government work actively both with Somalis and the international community to address the political and economic situation in Somalia. I met the Foreign Minister of the Transitional Federal Government on 18 January 2011 to discuss the upcoming end of the transition period. I also opened a Foreign and Commonwealth Office funded conference on Somalia at Wilton Park on 7 February 2011. The conference helped to increase international coherence around a united approach to building long-term stability in Somalia. This included discussion on development, humanitarian and security approaches to improving the political and economic situation. Officials from both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development also took part.

The Secretary of State for International Development announced during a visit to Somaliland and the region that UK aid to Somalia will increase by up to three times over the next three years. This will result in 340,000 more people getting jobs and better services because of British aid over the next four years, in addition to over 500,000 people a year who will benefit from emergency humanitarian assistance.

Greater stability, stemming from an end to conflict at national and local levels, is the underlying driver of all our objectives. Working across Government we want to: encourage mutually reinforcing and complementary governance structures; enable a permissive security environment which offers stability for citizens; reduce incentives to participate in violence and crime; and shift expectations towards official and legitimate authorities.

#### ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

##### Aviation: Noise

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department expects to conclude its discussions with the Department for Transport on the publication of airport noise action plans. [39025]

**Richard Benyon [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The completion and formal adoption of the airport noise action plans are the final elements that DEFRA needs to complete in order to fulfil completely its obligations under this phase of the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC (END). DEFRA officials have been working closely with their counterparts in the Department for Transport in reviewing the draft plans submitted by the airports. A number of final draft plans have now been received, and I anticipate that I will be in a position to adopt the first tranche of airport noise action plans in March. Following this, DEFRA officials expect that work on the other airport plans will be completed by early summer.

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has assessed the risk of EU infraction proceedings occurring as a result of the time taken to produce airport noise action plans. [39026]

**Richard Benyon [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC (END) required member states to submit summaries of all the adopted airport noise actions plans to the European Commission by January 2009. Given the possible risk of infraction, DEFRA officials have ensured that the Commission has been kept regularly informed of progress and of the timetable for completion of the process. The Commission has recognised that its timetable was very tight and, thus, the reasons for the delay. It is understood that some member states have yet to report any information on action plans. Furthermore, the devolved Administrations have completed their action plan reporting, and England has already reported summaries of the action plans for its agglomerations, major roads and major railways. As a result, our current assessment is that the risk of infraction proceedings is minimal. DEFRA is planning to report to the Commission in the early summer, following the adoption of the action plans for the 17 English airports.



### Birds: Conservation

**Andrew Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to protect the natural environment and nesting sites inhabited by farmland birds identified by her Department as declining in number. [39890]

**Mr Paice:** Nearly 70% of English farmland is in Environmental Stewardship schemes which improve farmland bird habitats, thus helping to increase population numbers. The Government are reviewing these schemes to deliver better outcomes, and DEFRA's funding of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment is also supporting the farming sector's commitment to increase farmland bird numbers.

Furthermore, DEFRA is committed to developing a new biodiversity strategy by spring 2011 setting out our approach to conserving biodiversity in England.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of questions tabled in the House to her for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for such answer in the period from 27 May 2010 to 7 February 2011. [40176]

**Richard Benyon:** We have received 349 named day questions between 27 May 2010 and 7 February 2011; of these, 203 (58%) were answered on the day named for answer.

### Fisheries

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the revision of restrictions on the number of days in which fishermen may catch fish. [39544]

**Richard Benyon:** Restrictions on the number of 'days at sea' fishermen may catch fish are in place under a number of management plans within EU waters. UK vessels are affected by restrictions in place for certain gear types in the western English Channel (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea sub-area VIIe) under the multi-annual management plan for Western Channel sole; in the North Sea (ICES area IV) under the multi-annual plan for plaice and sole, and; in the North Sea (ICES area IV) and Eastern English Channel (ICES sub-area VIIId), Irish Sea (ICES sub-area VIIa) and West of Scotland (ICES sub-areas VIa and Vb) under the long-term management plan for cod.

Under each of these management plans, the number of days that may be spent at sea are revised annually according to the details of the management plan and linked to the state of the stocks.

For the Western Channel, the number of days member states may allocate to individual vessels are detailed within the annual fishing opportunities regulation. The Government successfully argued that there should be no further cut to the number of days in 2011 as the conditions of the management plan, to reduce fishing mortality to the maximum sustainable yield level, have

been met. For all other areas, there is a reduction in fishing effort required in line with provisions of the management plan. The Government are working with fishermen's representatives and other interested parties to implement these reductions in a way that provides sufficient time at sea for vessels to catch their quota, including additional time for more sustainable fishing activity, while ensuring that the UK remains within its EU limits.

### Fossil Fuels: Exploration

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will carry out an overall assessment of the effects of fracking on underground water supplies; and if she will issue guidance to industry on the practice. [39936]

**Richard Benyon:** The impact of hydraulic fracturing on the water environment in England and Wales would be assessed on a site specific basis by the Environment Agency. This would happen via its role as a statutory consultee in the planning process, or as part of its consideration of the need for, and response to, an application for an environmental permit (under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010). The Environment Agency has its own in-house technical expertise which is used to support its role in protecting and managing water quality and resources.

The UK has a robust regulatory regime in place to ensure that any environmental risk from these activities would be controlled. This regulatory regime is backed up by both Government and Environment Agency guidance. Based on experience to date in the UK, we do not consider there is a need to modify any formal guidance or regulations, but this will be kept under review.

### Nature Reserves

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with (a) departmental officials, (b) Natural England and (c) environmental charities on the future of national nature reserves. [40292]

**Richard Benyon:** Natural England has been investigating different management options for National Nature Reserves and we have had a number of discussions with officials and Natural England at which these have been covered. Ministers have been briefed by Natural England and have frequently had meetings with environmental charities. At some of these National Nature Reserves have been discussed among other issues.

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many owners of sites of special scientific interest were served restoration orders in (a) 2007, (b) 2008, (c) 2009 and (d) 2010. [39452]

**Richard Benyon:** The number of owners of sites of special scientific interest served restoration orders were:

2007: 1  
2008: 1  
2009: 1  
2010: 0.

## Water: EU Law

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what duties are placed on British Waterways in consequence of the operation of the Water Framework Directive. [39328]

**Richard Benyon:** The water framework directive (WFD) is transposed in most of England and Wales by the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003. Regulation 17 requires that the Secretary of State, Welsh Ministers, the Environment Agency and certain public bodies (including British Waterways)

"must, in exercising their functions so far as affecting a river basin district, have regard to...the river basin management plan for that district as approved..."

There are other duties on public bodies in these regulations in relation to the provision of information and assistance to the Environment Agency (Regulation 19), and in relation to compliance with any directions or guidance issued by the Secretary of State, or Welsh Ministers (Regulation 20). Other regulations make similar provision in the cross-border Northumbria and Solway Tweed river basin districts. This is a devolved matter in Scotland.

British Waterways discharges its duties under Regulation 17 by means of its Environmental Management System. This system ensures the environmental appraisal of all British Waterways' activities, assessing impacts in terms of the WFD 'no deterioration' objective. It also checks that there is a process to deal with the actions in each river basin management plan for which British Waterways is responsible.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each devolved Administration in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39403]

**Robert Neill:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the departmental expenditure limit budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading "House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula".

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses will be published alongside the next edition of the analyses later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the main and supplementary estimates.

## Housing: Construction

**Graham Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities he estimates will (a) gain and (b) lose financially as a result of the implementation of his proposals for a New Homes Bonus system over the next six years; and if he will make a statement; [39339]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of local authorities which would (a) gain and (b) lose financially as a result of the implementation of his proposals for a New Homes Bonus system over the next six years; and if he will make a statement; [39340]

(3) which local authorities were assessed as likely to (a) gain and (b) lose financially in the retrospective modelling carried out by his Department as part of the New Homes Bonus consultation paper; and if he will make a statement; [39341]

(4) what assessment he has made of the geographic areas in which the estimated 14,000 additional new homes predicted by the New Homes Bonus impact assessment will be built; and if he will make a statement. [39342]

**Grant Shapps:** The aim of the New Homes Bonus is to provide a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent means of incentivising local authorities to increase their housing supply.

The spending review has secured almost £1 billion of funding to support the New Homes Bonus over the four year spending review period.

The consultation stage impact assessment published alongside the scheme consultation makes an estimate of the potential supply impact, but the relative financial position of an authority compared to others will depend on the final scheme design and the behavioural response of local authorities and their communities.

We are giving communities and neighbourhoods new rights, powers and tools that they could use to drive forward local regeneration and growth, enhancing their ability to benefit from the New Homes Bonus. We are also giving local communities and councils greater control over what happens locally, and greater ability to secure and channel public resources, and to attract private and social investment.

The distribution and behavioural response of local authorities will largely determine the geographical spread but our analysis suggests a potential increase of 8-13% nationally. This represents a total of approximately 144,000 additional homes built over the initial 10 years. The impact assessment also provides an illustration of the impact by demand and attitude to growth. This can be found at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/newhomesbonusconsult>

To disclose the retrospective modelling would be inappropriate. The modelling was done on the basis of retrospective housing supply data which cannot take account of future policy changes. In addition the Government have not yet made an announcement on the final scheme design. This will be made shortly.

We have however, published a calculator alongside the consultation document where individual local

authorities are given an indicative allocation for year 1 and can estimate future years funding from the New Homes Bonus scheme. This can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1767709.xls>

Under the consultation proposals we are also incentivising local authorities to bring empty homes back into use. This also means the authorities demolishing homes classified as long-term empty homes would not be penalised.

#### Social Rented Housing

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish proposals for funding arrangements for registered providers under the affordable rent scheme; and if he will make a statement. [39605]

**Andrew Stunell:** We are planning to publish guidance on the new Affordable Homes Programme jointly with the Homes and Communities Agency very shortly.

### CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

#### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39271]

**John Penrose:** Such passes are held by: 54 people who work for companies that provide IT, facilities management, security guarding and related services to the department; 30 staff who work for a private tenant in our main building in Cockspur street (whose passes do not allow access to DCMS occupied floors); and 24 agency and interim staff working in the Department.

#### Government Art Collection

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding the Government Art Collection plans to allocate to the acquisition of new works of art in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12. [39534]

**Mr Vaizey:** The capital budget allocation for the purchase of new works of art for 2010-11 is £194,000. For 2011-12 it is £104,000.

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the value of the Government Art Collection. [39536]

**Mr Vaizey:** It is not possible to give an accurate estimate of the value of the Government Art Collection, which has no current market valuation. The current monetary value of a work of art can be accurately assessed only at the time of purchase or sale or by professional valuation. In the former case, the collection is not actively traded; in the latter, it would not be justifiable expenditure of public funds to have the whole collection valued professionally.

#### Ofcom: Consultants

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the name was of the consultancy on whom Ofcom spent £2.7 million in 2009-10 on that consultancy's role as a thought partner; what the (a) number of hours worked, (b) number of staff provided, (c) hourly rate per member of staff for the consultancy, for the provision of these services were. [39085]

**Mr Vaizey [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised that the £2.7 million referred to was not spent on one consultancy, rather it was the total sum spent across 2009-10 on work provided by 31 different suppliers providing a range of services to Ofcom including research and specialist technical expertise on a range of projects as part of Ofcom's overall annual programme of work. The table sets out the suppliers used and total sums paid.

According to Ofcom, information provided as part of its tendering process is commercially sensitive. Ofcom was therefore unable to provide a more detailed breakdown of the number of hours worked, staff provided and hour rate by each supplier since disclosure of this may compromise future tendering processes. A breakdown of the figure in question is as follows:

| Vendors                              | Total (£)    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Aegis Systems Ltd.                   | 11,759.40    |
| Analysys Mason Ltd.                  | 771,521.33   |
| Andrew Chesher                       | 49,335.00    |
| BDO Stoy Hayward LLP                 | 9,400.00     |
| Bentley Associates                   | 14,638.34    |
| Critical Research Ltd.               | 14,282.13    |
| Deloitte and Touche LLP              | 177,754.61   |
| Dotecon Ltd.                         | 213,869.55   |
| ERA Technology Ltd.                  | 45,783.60    |
| Ernst and Young LLP                  | 61,850.00    |
| Essential Research                   | 153,958.07   |
| Harris Interactive UK Ltd.           | 10,420.58    |
| Illuminas Ltd.                       | 29,375.73    |
| KPMG LLP                             | 4,684.26     |
| LECG Ltd.                            | 96,915.00    |
| Mediacrarity Digital Ltd.            | 23,500.00    |
| Mott MacDonald Ltd.                  | 42,379.54    |
| Oliver and Ohlbaum Associates Ltd.   | 50,963.28    |
| Oxera Consulting Ltd.                | 141,956.14   |
| PA Consulting Group                  | 105,187.50   |
| Plum Consulting Ltd.                 | 72,262.50    |
| PricewaterhouseCoopers               | 31,033.24    |
| Prodata Partners Ltd.                | 42,423.50    |
| Sagentia Ltd.                        | 34,603.75    |
| Saville Rossiter-Base                | 371,888.94   |
| Steve Carter                         | 2,350.00     |
| Synovate Ltd.                        | 110,481.69   |
| The Brattle Group                    | 6,316.38     |
| TNS UK Ltd.                          | 39,675.00    |
| Transfinite Systems Ltd.             | 2,300.01     |
| Value Partners Management Consulting | 63,410.50    |
| Accounting adjustments               | (40,512.50)  |
| Total                                | 2,765,767.07 |



### Olympic Games 2012

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether VisitEngland has provided to the Department its annual review on the opportunities arising from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. [38999]

**John Penrose:** VisitEngland has not been asked by this Department to undertake an annual review on 2012 opportunities, but has (naturally) done extensive analysis to underpin its strategies and marketing plans for 2012 and beyond.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has plans to compensate businesses whose premises will be temporarily inaccessible because of security measures associated with the London 2012 Olympics. [39119]

**Hugh Robertson:** Operational planning for the Olympic and Paralympic Games aims to minimise disruption to individuals and businesses as far as possible. London 2012 delivery partners have been working together for some time to ensure clear and co-ordinated communications and consultation well in advance of the games to enable businesses to assess how games operations might affect their own operations and plan accordingly. Any compensation claims that do arise will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

### Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which companies based in Scotland have been awarded contracts to provide supplies and services to the London 2012 Olympics to date. [39489]

**Hugh Robertson:** To date, 25 businesses registered in Scotland have won work supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

This figure only accounts for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors), such as Barr, based in Glasgow, who are building the basketball arena. The figure does not include contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The names of the companies, that have won Games-related contracts, can be found at the business section of the London 2012 website at the following link:

<http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php>

### Telecommunications: Visual Impairment

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of the use by deaf people of video relay services. [39289]

**Mr Vaizey:** No assessment has been made of the contribution to the economy of the use by deaf people of video relay services.

Ofcom is currently undertaking a review of relay service provision for hearing- and speech-impaired users of electronic communications. A consultation document will be published in the spring which will include Ofcom's analysis on the costs and benefits associated with video relay services and an impact assessment.

A research report which will help inform the review was published on 4 February 2011 and can be read at:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/telecoms-research/ofcom-relay-services/>

This report seeks to quantify the value to deaf people of the various options for relay services.

## HEALTH

### Bowel Cancer: Health Services

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to support effective commissioning for bowel cancer; [39576]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure communication and partnership working between Public Health England and the NHS in respect of prevention and treatment of (a) bowel cancer and (b) other cancers to achieve a joined-up approach; [39594]

(3) what steps he is taking to provide (a) GPs, (b) GP commissioners and (c) GP consortia with information, support and resources to provide effective bowel cancer services. [39595]

**Paul Burstow:** The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' describes the Government's vision to create a more autonomous and accountable national health service. Within this new commissioning architecture, responsibility for most commissioning is devolved to local general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia, supported and held to account by an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January, discusses how commissioners can be supported to commission cancer services, including bowel cancer services, in the reformed national health service. A significant amount of cancer care is best commissioned for populations covering one and a half to two million and, where population size requirements mean that a single GP consortium is too small to commission a particular service, then GP consortia will wish to work collaboratively. GP consortia will be able to decide whether they wish to identify a lead consortium for commissioning more specialised cancer services or to do so through commissioning support organisations.

In addition, health and well-being boards in every upper-tier local authority will provide a mechanism for bringing together local NHS, public health and social care commissioners. This could provide a forum for the development of cross-cutting commissioning approaches to improve cancer services.

The Department and the National Cancer Action Team have previously provided commissioners with a range of commissioning guidance and support, such as the Cancer Commissioning Toolkit and the Cancer Commissioning Guidance. Going forward, this guidance will be developed to reflect what works best in supporting pathfinder GP consortia. In 2011, we will also develop a cancer commissioning support pack to

enable commissioners to access in one place the key information they will need to discharge their functions effectively.

Our strategy also makes clear the vital role that GPs have to play in achieving early diagnosis of cancer and it is therefore important they receive the necessary support to do this. We are providing £450 million over the next four years that will give GPs direct access to a range of diagnostic tests to confirm or rule out cancer; support GPs to diagnose cancer; and fund the associated cancer treatments in secondary care.

There is already information available for GPs about referral of patients with possible cancer symptoms, but we are looking at more ways to support GPs. Specifically on bowel cancer, we have commissioned Bowel Cancer UK to provide resource packs for all GPs in the two regions that are involved in campaigns to encourage earlier presentation of people with bowel cancer symptoms.

Successful delivery of public health services will require strong links between Public Health England and the NHS. Joint working will be essential in supporting the collection and provision of the information needed to inform future commissioning and to enable specific public health services to be commissioned through, and delivered by, the NHS. This will require sharing of expertise and knowledge across the two services.

#### Departmental Freedom of Information

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter of 4 February 2011 from his Department's freedom of information case officer to the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne, what deadline he has set by which the right hon. Member's request for a departmental internal review will be completed and released. [39941]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Work on this review is still under way and a response will be sent to the right hon. Member as soon as possible and a copy placed in the Library. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not provide a legal deadline for the completion of an internal review.

#### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each devolved Administration in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39406]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 Spending Review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula and are available at:

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the main and supplementary estimates.

#### Doctors: Training

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of foundation house officers did not continue their training beyond the Foundation Programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [39741]

**Anne Milton:** Figures from a recent United Kingdom-wide survey of Foundation Programme doctors indicated that approximately 11% had not continued their training at the present time, of which 6% took up a service post and 5% were taking a career break.

#### Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-medical staff at Doncaster and Bassetlaw hospital are paid over £150,000 a year. [39876]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Published earnings data for non-medical staff, which does not include staff who are not on Agenda for Change terms and conditions such as board members, chief executives, and others on local pay and conditions, show that there were no staff paid in excess of £150,000 in either basic pay or total earnings at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (FT) for the 12 months from October 2009 to September 2010.

FTs are accountable to their governors and members, including on the issue of pay. The pay of FT directors, including their chief executive and senior staff, is up to each individual FT to determine. Neither Monitor nor the Department collect or hold this information centrally. However, this information is available publicly, in each FT's annual accounts, in £5,000 bands.

In future, we will be introducing a new requirement on FTs through the Health and Social Care Bill about transparency on pay through their annual reports. FTs will have to include details of the pay and remuneration policy of the FT, together with details of the pay of directors and information on the work of the FT's remuneration committee.

#### Family Planning

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether family planning will fall within the commissioning responsibility of (a) GP consortia and (b) local authorities under his proposals for NHS reform. [39450]

**Anne Milton:** On 21 December 2010, we published 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

We propose that local authorities will be responsible for commissioning comprehensive open-access sexual health services using funds from the ring-fenced public health budget. In the case of contraception, Public Health England will fund the commissioning by the NHS Commissioning Board of contraception provision currently available as an additional service under the general practitioner (GP) contract, and local authorities will fund and commission contraceptive services (including through community pharmacies) for patients who do not wish to go to their GP or who have more complex needs. This model also provides opportunities to further integrate provision of sexually transmitted infection and contraception services.

These proposals are currently subject to consultation which closes on 31 March.

#### General Practitioners

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential for staff of primary care trusts to enter employment with GP commissioning consortia. [39448]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Impact Assessment of the Health and Social Care Bill shows a best estimate of 60% at this stage, of primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority staff transferring to new organisations in the system, including general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia and the NHS commissioning board. GP commissioning consortia and PCTs should work together to ensure the movement of appropriately skilled and experienced staff into the new organisations to avoid the loss of skills and unnecessary redundancy costs.

#### General Practitioners: Disclosure of Information

**Mr Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to publicise whistleblower rights and protections for GPs. [39407]

**Anne Milton:** The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) is part of the wider employment rights legislation and gives the full protection of the law to employees who act in the public interest, providing they follow the procedures set out in the Act.

PIDA would apply where a general practitioner (GP) is directly employed, for instance by another GP or, in more limited circumstances, by a primary care trust (PCT). However, the vast majority of GPs provide primary medical services as independent contractors engaged under contracts for services by local PCTs. As such, they are not employees and PIDA would not apply.

If a GP has concerns about another clinician or service then these can be raised with the local PCT, with the relevant professional regulatory body and, if registered, with the Care Quality Commission. It will be for the NHS Commissioning Board to consider what arrangements are needed to enable GPs to raise concerns with the GP consortia or the Board itself.

#### General Practitioners: Telephone Services

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects non-geographic telephone numbers for GP surgeries to be phased out; and if he will make a statement. [39560]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Following a public consultation on the future use of 084 numbers in the national health service, directions to strategic health authorities and primary care trusts, and to special health authorities and NHS trusts in England (with the exception of NHS Direct NHS Trust) were issued in December 2009. The directions instruct those organisations not to use contact telephone numbers which have the effect of the patient paying a premium above the cost of a call to a geographical number. Corresponding regulations were issued as an amendment to the General Medical Services Regulations in spring 2010.

The regulations do not prohibit an organisation from using specific number ranges for the purpose of contacting NHS services. Organisations remain free to use non-geographical number ranges such as 084, providing that patients are not charged more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to do so.

#### Health Services: Foreign Workers

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of (a) doctors and (b) other healthcare professionals from outside the EU who were employed in the UK on the most recent date for which figures are available. [39477]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held centrally. The NHS Information Centre collects data on the number of medical staff broken down by country of primary medical qualification and not by nationality. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census September 2009 (England) shows that 35,559 doctors qualified outside the European Economic Area. No data are collected on the country of qualification for other non-medical staff.

#### Living Wills

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on living wills. [39687]

**Anne Milton:** The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a legal framework to enable someone aged 18 and over to make an advance decision, sometimes known as a living will, to refuse specified medical treatment for a time in the future when they may lack the capacity to consent to or refuse that treatment. Provided the decision is valid and applicable to current circumstances, it has the same effect as a decision made by a person with capacity. There are no current plans to change that legal framework.

#### Myasthenias

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in the costs of medicines to treat (a) congenital and (b) Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome. [39374]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on the number of prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, for medicines used to treat both congenital and Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome is provided in the following table.



Net ingredient cost of prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England—January 2005 to September 2010

|                   |                                             | £000                                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                   | Congenital myasthenic syndrome <sup>1</sup> | Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome <sup>2</sup> |
| 2005              | 2,646.8                                     | 26.1                                           |
| 2006              | 2,758.8                                     | 18.3                                           |
| 2007              | 2,761.8                                     | 27.0                                           |
| 2008              | 2,908.9                                     | 9.0                                            |
| 2009              | 2,995.9                                     | 6.0                                            |
| 2010 <sup>3</sup> | 2,176.7                                     | 13.8                                           |

<sup>1</sup> These drugs are Distigmine bromide, Neostigmine bromide and Pyridostigmine bromide. The British National Formulary indicates neostigmine is also used for other purposes (neuromuscular blockade) and that distigmine is primarily used for urinary retention and sometimes for myasthenia gravis.

<sup>2</sup> This includes 3,4-diaminopyridine (amifampridine) and Firdapse (brand name).

<sup>3</sup> Nine months data, January to September.

Source:

Prescription cost analysis system

These drugs are also used in hospitals. However, as they have not been positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, under our contractual agreement with the company who supply us with the hospital data, IMS Health, we cannot release data for these drugs.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the EU orphan drugs regulations on the development of medicines to treat (a) congenital and (b) Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome; [39375]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of EU orphan drugs regulations on the cost to patients of medicines to treat (a) congenital and (b) Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome. [39376]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We have made no such assessments.

The orphan drug legislation, Regulation (EC) No 141/2000, was introduced to include a specific incentive which provides for a period of market exclusivity for a company which develops an orphan drug.

Rewards to companies under the orphan medicines scheme should be proportionate to the effort and cost incurred. If there is evidence of systematic use of the orphan drug legislation in circumstances where companies are not incurring substantial research and development costs, then we would consider pressing for a change in the European legislation.

### Palliative Care: Children

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of his Department's fund for children's palliative care has been spent to date; and on what he expects the remainder to be spent. [39880]

**Anne Milton:** The Department allocated just over £19 million of the £30 million funding made available in 2010-11 for children's palliative care projects. The remainder has now been returned to central finance. This funding will directly benefit children's palliative care and support more nationally equitable provision of services. The Expert Advisory Panel that reviewed all applications received, worked to ensure that as many effective bids as possible were funded and felt able to recommend that bids totalling over £19 million of the £30 million could be spent.

### Palliative Care: Drugs

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to assess the (a) safety and (b) consistency of the approach of the NHS in prescribing drugs to frail and elderly patients in terminal care; and what steps he has taken to assess whether such treatment is at all times in the best interest of the patients. [39323]

**Mr Simon Burns:** It is for local national health service services to ensure they are operating safely taking account of best practice guidance. The General Medical Council's guidance "Good Practice in Prescribing Medicines" gives detailed guidance for doctors on prescribing medicines, and makes it clear that prescribing must be appropriate and undertaken in the patient's best interests.

The Department published a national End of Life Care Strategy in 2008, which aims to improve care for all adults from diagnosis through to bereavement. The Strategy sets out the need to engage actively with people at the end of life, and their families and carers, in care planning.

This enables patients to make choices about the care they receive, including medication to control their symptoms and about advance decisions to refuse treatment, in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

### Sickle Cell Diseases: Screening

**Mr Virendra Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department monitors the implementation of the NHS Standards and Guidance for Transcranial Doppler Scanning for Children with Sickle Cell Disease issued in March 2009; [39479]

(2) whether he has plans to ensure that all children with sickle cell disease have access to transcranial doppler scans to determine their risk of stroke. [39480]

**Anne Milton:** The planning, delivery and improvement of services for people with sickle cell are the responsibility of local commissioners and providers.

The Department, working with key partners has supported a range of initiatives to improve access to services for sickle cell and thalassaemia patients. These include:

- supporting the development of transcranial doppler scanning services to provide early identification of sickle cell children at risk of stroke;

- launching the National Haemoglobinopathy Registry to identify patients with sickle cell and thalassaemia and monitor care;

- funding training posts for registrars, nurse consultants and clinical scientists to increase the number of staff with specific expertise in haemoglobinopathy disorders; and

- funding the East Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group to produce standards of care for trusts and service models for commissioners in high and low prevalence areas and integrated pathways of care for patients.

### HOME DEPARTMENT

#### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related crime and disorder in university towns and cities. [40258]

**James Brokenshire:** In the coalition agreement, the Government set out a clear programme of reform around alcohol licensing to tackle the crime and antisocial behaviour that is too often associated with binge drinking in the night-time economy, and has particular issues for university towns and cities.

Following a public consultation, we have introduced measures to deliver this reform through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. The measures include; making it easier for communities to have their say on local licensing by allowing local authorities to consider the views of the wider community, not just those living close to premises; charging a fee for late-night licences so that premises open late at night contribute towards the cost of policing and local authority services, and substantially overhauling the system for temporary event notices (TENs), so that existing loopholes can no longer be exploited by unscrupulous operators, while ensuring the process is not bureaucratic for small voluntary and community groups.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission a report from the chief constable of Greater Manchester police on allegations of anti-Semitic comments made at the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts protest on 29 January 2011; whether any arrests have been made in connection with such allegations; and if she will make a statement. [R] [39610]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply.

The coalition Government are committed to confronting anti-Semitism wherever it is found. I would also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire), on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 913-14W.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Community Security Trust on levels of anti-Semitism; what matters were discussed; and if she will make a statement. [R] [39611]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply.

We regularly meet with representatives of the Community Security Trust to discuss the levels of anti-Semitism. In early February, I was briefed on the Community Security Trust's recent report on the number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2010 and I have asked the Cross Government Working Group on anti-Semitism to ensure that we continue to work together to tackle this issue.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent meetings she has had with the Board of Deputies of British Jews on levels of anti-Semitism; what matters were discussed; and if she will make a statement. [R] [39613]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply.

We regularly meet with representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to discuss the levels of anti-Semitism. Representatives from the Board of Deputies

of British Jews, the Community Security Trust and the Jewish Leadership Council sit on the Cross Government Working Group which is tasked with tackling anti-Semitism.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Mr Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the changes to student visa requirements on the number of students studying at (a) publicly-financed further education colleges, (b) privately-financed further education colleges, (c) publicly-funded higher education institutions and (d) private higher education institutions. [39798]

**Damian Green:** A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. The consultation sought the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The results of the consultation and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

### CABINET OFFICE

#### Big Society Bank

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to support the development of not-for-profit contractors for public services through the big society bank. [39768]

**Mr Hurd:** The big society bank will operate at a wholesale level through social investment intermediaries to catalyse growth in the social investment market, encouraging increased investment in social enterprises and other organisations with a social purpose and broadening the finance options open to the sector. This means that, although the bank will not deal directly with frontline organisations, it may indirectly support the development of not-for-profit contractors for public services.

#### Big Society Initiative

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent assessment is of the level of public support for the big society initiative. [39925]

**Mr Hurd:** Big society is building on the great work already going on in the community and encouraging individuals to embrace the additional opportunities available to them. This is illustrated by the demand big society initiatives have received over the last year.

For example, public service workers have been keen to take control of public services in order to improve quality and efficiency. 21 mutual pathfinders and 141 pathfinder GP consortia have already been launched across public services.

There is real demand for the National Citizens Service from young people as illustrated by the British Youth Council "Big Listen" survey. We expect over 11,000 people to take part in the initiative this summer.

Businesses are also becoming more engaged in the community with 77% of business leaders stating they could do more to scale up strategic support for communities and 80% stating they could do more to encourage other businesses to scale up their support.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the levels of (a) recognition and (b) understanding of the Government's big society initiative among (i) the general public, (ii) the voluntary sector, (iii) trade unions and (iv) hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [40196]

**Mr Hurd:** We have not undertaken a formal assessment of the recognition and understanding of the big society initiative among the public. Nevertheless there has been widespread enthusiasm from the public and the voluntary sector to find out about and engage with the big society vision.

For example, the Department for Education has received 258 applications to set up a free school, illustrating the appetite of the general public to have more say in public services.

There is also increasing demand from individuals to contribute to their community and society. According to the 2008-09 Citizenship Survey, 14.1 million people who are already volunteering are willing to do more for others in their community.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will establish a formal definition for his Department's big society initiative. [40329]

**Mr Hurd:** The big society is at the heart of the Government's programme of reform, but it is not a Cabinet Office initiative with top down targets and prescription from the centre. The big society has three clear components at its core:

- inspiring social action;
- empowering communities to take control of their area; and
- opening up public services to diverse providers such as charities and social enterprises.

#### Public Service: Contractors

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to enable the big society bank to provide capital support to not-for-profit contractors for public services in order to guarantee their financial stability for potential public procurement bodies. [39766]

**Mr Hurd:** The big society bank will operate at a wholesale level through social investment intermediaries to catalyse growth in the social investment market, encouraging increased investment in social enterprises and other organisations with a social purpose and broadening the finance options open to the sector. This means that, although the bank will not deal directly with frontline organisations, it may indirectly provide capital to not-for-profit contractors for public services.

#### Speech Therapy

**Mr Robin Walker:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what role his Department has in the co-ordination of discussions between Departments on speech and language therapy. [39004]

**Mr Hurd:** The Cabinet Office has no co-ordinating role in any such discussions.

#### Transition Fund

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much of his Department's Transition Fund he expects to be used to fund debt advice services in financial year 2010-11; [40215]

(2) how much of his Department's Transition Fund has been allocated to fund debt advice services in 2011-12. [40216]

**Mr Hurd:** Debt counselling is one of the eligible service areas for the £100 million Transition Fund. Funding has not been allocated in advance to specific service areas. As applications to the Transition Fund are still being assessed, I am not able say how much funding will be awarded to this area.

#### JUSTICE

##### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each of the devolved administrations in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39380]

**Mr Djanogly:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the departmental expenditure limit budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading "House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula".

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pspub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pspub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the main and supplementary estimates.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely financial cost to his Department of the operation of the (a) Civil Procedure Rule Committee, (b) Criminal Cases Review Commission, (c) Criminal Procedure Rule Committee, (d) Family Procedure Rule Committee, (e) Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman, (f) Judicial Appointments Commission, (g) Parole Board, (h) Sentencing Council for England and Wales, (i) Tribunal Procedure Committee and (j) Valuation Tribunal for England in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14. [40187]



**Mr Djanogly:** The information is set out as follows:

|                                                       | 2011-12     | 2012-13     | 2013-14     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Arm's length body</i>                              |             |             |             |
| Civil Procedure Rule Committee                        | 7,000       | 7,000       | 7,000       |
| Criminal Cases Review Commission                      | '5,900,000  | '5,600,000  | '6,200,000  |
| Criminal Procedure Rule Committee <sup>2</sup>        | —           | —           | —           |
| Family Procedure Rule Committee                       | 7,000       | 7,000       | 7,000       |
| Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman           | '500,000    | '500,000    | '500,000    |
| Judicial Appointments Commission                      | '5,500,000  | '5,500,000  | '5,700,000  |
| Parole Board                                          | '10,500,000 | '10,500,000 | '10,800,000 |
| Sentencing Council for England and Wales <sup>3</sup> | —           | —           | —           |
| Tribunal Procedure Committee <sup>4</sup>             | 11,500      | 18,500      | 18,000      |
| Valuation Tribunal for England <sup>5</sup>           | —           | —           | —           |

<sup>1</sup> Indicative resource allocations only.

<sup>2</sup> The funding for the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee in future years is yet to be agreed.

<sup>3</sup> The funding for the Sentencing Council in future years is yet to be agreed.

<sup>4</sup> In 2012-13 and 2013-14 recruitment exercises are planned, these cost £6,500.

<sup>5</sup> The Valuation Tribunal for England is part of the Department of Communities and Local Government.

### Land Registry

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the findings of the feasibility study into the future of the Land Registry will be published. [39871]

**Mr Djanogly:** We do not intend to publish the findings of the feasibility study at this stage. The findings relate to the formulation and development of Government policy and are still under consideration by Ministers. Publication might deter Ministers and officials from raising, and having free and frank discussions, about the full range of possibilities in relation to any given policy or approach to implementation. This would have a detrimental effect on both the process of collective Government and the quality of the decision-making. In addition, the findings contain information that if released would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Land Registry and the Ministry of Justice.

However, if the preferred option is for a materially different ownership structure for HMLR, then a full public consultation will be conducted.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions (a) he and (b) his officials have had with (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in the Cabinet Office on the Land Registry and the use of its data in the Public Data Corporation. [39872]

**Mr Djanogly:** Both the Secretary of State for Justice and my ministerial colleague Lord McNally have met with Ministers in the Cabinet Office regarding the Land Registry and the potential use of its data in a Public Data Corporation.

Ministry of Justice officials have also met with colleagues in the Cabinet Office to ensure that full consideration is given to the Public Data Corporation proposition as part of the work undertaken in relation to the Land Registry Feasibility Study.

### Prosecutions: Animal Welfare

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been in (a) the UK and (b) Yorkshire in respect of breaches of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 to date. [40339]

**Mr Djanogly:** Offences under the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 cannot be separately identified from court proceedings data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice as they form part of a miscellaneous group of offences which cannot be separately analysed.

### Victims and Witnesses: Voluntary Organisations

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the financial cost to his Department was of support to the victim and witness voluntary sector in the financial years (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11. [40186]

**Mr Blunt:** The financial cost to the Ministry of Justice for support to the victim and witness voluntary sector is as follows:

- (a) £40.3 million in the financial year 2008-09;
- (b) £40.7 million in the financial year 2009-10; and
- (c) £48.9 million in the financial year 2010-11.

This does not include the funding provided to Co-operative Legal Services to provide the Legal Advice Helpline service for people bereaved by homicide and the funding provided to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority to compensate victims of violent crime who have been physically or mentally injured.

## SCOTLAND

### Disability Living Allowance

**Margaret Curran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the decision to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance from those in residential care homes. [39398]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are in contact with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on a range of issues concerning reform of the welfare system.

### Disability: Children

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1015-6W, on disability: children, when he plans to meet the Scottish Government to discuss the conclusions of the report, *Setting the Scene for Scotland's Disabled Children*. [40442]

**David Mundell:** I said in my previous answer that I would be happy to meet the Scottish Government to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the above report.

### Heathrow: Glasgow

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with (a) BAA, (b) BMI and (c) trade unions on the future of direct flights between Glasgow and London Heathrow. [39391]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State for Scotland has spoken to the chief executives of BAA and bmi about the future of direct flights between Glasgow and London Heathrow, and intends to have further such discussions. He has raised with both the importance of this route to Scottish passengers and we are monitoring developments during the formal consultation bmi is conducting with its employees and the relevant unions.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Cambodia: Overseas Aid

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to aid in Cambodia in (a) 2010-11 and (b) each of the previous five years. [40441]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral expenditure in Cambodia in each of the five years from 2005-06 to 2009-10 is published in 'Statistics on International Development' which is available on the DFID website and in the Library of the House. The relevant figures are reproduced in the following table.

| Financial year | DFID bilateral expenditure in Cambodia (£ million) |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2005-06        | 13.1                                               |
| 2006-07        | 12.4                                               |
| 2007-08        | 12.8                                               |
| 2008-09        | 17.7                                               |
| 2009-10        | 15.8                                               |

Total programme spend in Cambodia in 2010-11 is estimated to be £14.7 million. Final figures for 2010-11 will be published in DFID's annual report in July.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of

the £1.4 billion fund for the creation of new apprenticeship places he expects to be used to fund apprenticeships in the low carbon sector; [40343]

(2) how many new apprenticeship places he expects to be created in the low carbon sector. [40342]

**Mr Hayes:** Government have ambitious plans for the growth of the apprenticeship programme, but as apprenticeships are real jobs, the number of places available is determined by employer demand.

The Skills Funding Agency and National Apprenticeship Service are working alongside the low carbon sector to make additional apprenticeship places available where there is local demand.

It is important that employers take up these opportunities and offer apprenticeship places to secure a new generation of highly skilled employees and we will be encouraging them to do so.

### Carbon Monoxide: Alarms

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to promote the use of carbon monoxide alarms in residential properties; what plans it has for further such steps; and if he will make a statement. [38071]

**Chris Grayling:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government take gas safety and awareness of carbon monoxide issues very seriously and provide significant information on Government websites and in published information. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advises consumers to always use a Gas Safe registered engineer for all gas work in their home and to ensure that any gas appliances are regularly serviced and maintained. HSE also strongly recommends the use of audible carbon monoxide alarms, but emphasises that they should not be used as a substitute for the correct installation or maintenance of an appliance. The Department for Communities and Local Government also requires the installation of a carbon monoxide alarm when a new or replacement solid fuel appliance is installed under the obligations set out in the Building Regulations.

HSE and Gas Safe Register, the statutory registration scheme for gas engineers, also work to raise consumer awareness of the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning and the benefits of carbon monoxide alarms, through awareness raising promotions and media campaigns.

### Citizens Advice Bureaux: Finance

**Mr Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department provides to citizens advice bureaux in England in each financial year from 2001-02 to 2009-10. [39797]

**Mr Davey:** BIS provides core grant in aid funding to Citizens Advice (CitA), the umbrella body for the Citizens Advice Service in England and Wales. That funding is provided for England and Wales jointly, not separately. Central Government do not provide funding directly to

individual citizens advice bureaux, core funding for which is usually provided by the local authority in which they are located.

Over the previous years BIS has also provided funding to Citizens Advice (CitA) under the financial inclusion fund (for face to face debt advice project) and under the additional hours of advice (AHA) project. Programme funding for both ends March 2011.

|         | BIS core funding | Financial inclusion fund | Additional hours project |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2009/10 | 21,470,000       | 18,579,000               | 7,500,000                |
| 2008/09 | 21,470,000       | 17,949,000               | 2,500,000                |
| 2007/08 | 21,470,000       | 13,071,000               | —                        |
| 2006/07 | 21,470,000       | 15,443,000               | —                        |
| 2005/06 | 23,605,000       | —                        | —                        |
| 2004/05 | 23,855,000       | —                        | —                        |
| 2003/04 | 22,920,000       | —                        | —                        |
| 2002/03 | 17,150,000       | —                        | —                        |
| 2001/02 | 17,140,000       | —                        | —                        |
| Total   | 190,550,000      | 65,042,000               | 10,000,000               |

**Mr Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding was provided by his Department to citizens advice bureaux in England in 2010-11. [39796]

**Mr Davey:** BIS provides core grant in aid funding to Citizens Advice (CitA), the umbrella body for the Citizens Advice service in England and Wales. That funding is provided for England and Wales jointly, not separately. Central Government do not provide funding directly to individual citizens advice bureaux, core funding for which is usually provided by the local authority in which they are located.

Over the previous years BIS has also provided funding to Citizens Advice (CitA) under the Financial Inclusion Fund (for Face to Face Debt Advice project) and under the additional Hours of Advice (AHA) Project. Programme funding for both ends March 2011.

| 2010-11                  | £          |
|--------------------------|------------|
| BIS Core Funding         | 18,943,000 |
| Financial Inclusion Fund | 29,320,000 |
| Additional Hours Project | 5,310,000  |
| Total                    | 53,573,000 |

#### Financial Services: Fees and Charges

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Coalition Agreement, page 13, when he plans to bring forward proposals to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges. [40448]

**Mr Davey:** The Government have committed in the coalition agreement to introduce stronger consumer protections including measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges. We have been considering how best to take forward this commitment and believe that it should be done in the context of a wider strategic approach to strengthening and streamlining consumer

protections and advocacy. This issue is therefore being addressed as part of our Consumer Credit and Personal Insolvency Review.

The Call for Evidence on this Review has now closed. We have received a considerable number of responses which we are now considering. If the evidence comes out in favour of action, we will not hesitate to act to protect the interests of consumers. We will come forward with specific proposals in spring 2011.

#### Green Investment Bank

**Ian Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to the location of the headquarters of the Green Investment Bank. [39035]

**Mr Prisk:** Decisions on the location of the Green Investment Bank's headquarters will be taken in due course and on the grounds of operational effectiveness. I should note that we are not currently envisaging an institution with very large staff numbers.

#### Higher Education: Finance

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Higher Education Funding Council for England will announce the (a) subjects which will receive grant funding and (b) levels of such funding from 2012. [39884]

**Mr Willetts:** Our reforms to higher education whereby public funding largely follows the informed choices made by students rather than direct teaching grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are being phased in over three years from the 2012/13 academic year. We said in our grant letter to HEFCE that the Council's future methods for allocating teaching grant would need to be fundamentally reviewed and revised as a consequence of those wider funding reforms. That review would be informed by our priorities for the remaining teaching grant which we will set out in the forthcoming higher education White Paper.

Although we gave indicative funding totals in the Council's grant letter issued in December 2011 for the 2012-13 financial year those figures will not be confirmed until the 2012 grant letter is issued at the end of this year, in line with the usual annual process.

#### Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many new Knowledge Transfer Partnerships he expects to be formed in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [39940]

**Mr Willetts:** Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are one of the mechanisms utilised by the Technology Strategy Board to deliver support for business research and development and innovation. The Technology Strategy Board contributes around 70% of the total annual budget for KTPs, with the remainder coming from 19 other organisations including the Research Councils and other Government Departments.

The Technology Strategy Board's annual budget allocation has not been finalised and it is also currently in the process of developing its strategic plan for the



upcoming spending review period. Until this process is complete and the business plans of other funders has also been completed, it will not be possible to provide a robust indicator as to the number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships that will be formed in each of the next five years.

#### Knowledge Transfer Partnerships: Finance

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding was allocated to innovation, collaboration and knowledge transfer partnerships between universities and

businesses (a) in total and (b) by each regional development agency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [39522]

**Mr Willetts** [holding answer 10 February 2011]: The following information has been taken from readily available information collected by regional development agencies (RDAs). There are also other projects and initiatives in which the RDAs have allocated funding, which contain elements relating to innovation, collaboration and knowledge transfer partnerships between universities and businesses. However, RDAs are unable to disaggregate this information without incurring disproportionate costs.

| RDA   | 2005/06                  | 2006/07                 | 2007/08                 | 2008/09                  | 2009-10    |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| AWM   | <sup>1</sup> 111,552,000 | <sup>1</sup> 90,143,000 | <sup>1</sup> 99,769,000 | <sup>2</sup> 105,783,000 | —          |
| EEDA  | 16,887,529               | 8,628,159               | 6,485,054               | 19,958,418               | 5,552,094  |
| EMDA  | 12,640,000               | 14,000,000              | 18,000,000              | 9,800,000                | 15,100,000 |
| LDA   | 1,529,431                | 2,268,009               | 2,515,140               | 1,340,029                | 2,301,330  |
| NWDA  | 27,441,883               | 38,764,117              | 19,632,195              | 32,022,044               | 30,147,991 |
| ONE   | 4,394,857                | 11,161,663              | 11,276,073              | 10,909,503               | 6,121,223  |
| SEEDA | 240,000                  | 1,747,000               | 14,349,162              | 1,958,089                | 3,882,000  |
| SWRDA | 18,733,309               | 13,873,365              | 11,576,811              | 8,396,163                | 19,637,241 |
| YF    | 3,074,772                | 7,588,025               | 12,147,165              | 1,913,032                | 16,831,431 |

<sup>1</sup> Figures from annual reports and accounts (2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08) under the corporate plan definition of Pillar 1—Developing a dynamic and diverse business base.

<sup>2</sup> Spend on Corporate Plan theme of Business.

<sup>3</sup> Spend on 'Harnessing Knowledge' which is included within the Business theme figure.

<sup>4</sup> Solutions for Business innovation products.

#### Open University

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of extending the charter for the Open University so that it can run specific courses for students in 16 to 19 education. [39943]

**Mr Willetts:** The Government are keen to encourage improved choice and access to high quality, learner centred education and training opportunities for learners of all ages. The Open University already offers short higher education courses to sixth form students through its Young Applicants in Schools Scheme. If it wishes to amend its charter to allow for the delivery of courses of further education, it may put forward proposals to the Privy Council for consideration.

#### Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each devolved Administration in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39405]

**Mr Davey:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the departmental expenditure limit budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942). Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are

published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the Main and Supplementary Estimates.

#### Qualifications: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of Peterborough city council area had no formal qualifications in each year since 2001. [39537]

**Mr Hayes:** Estimates of the numbers and proportion of the population with different qualification levels (including no qualifications) at local authority level are published annually and can be found at:

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_supplementary\\_tables/labour\\_force\\_survey\\_sfr\\_supplementary\\_tables/](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/labour_force_survey_sfr_supplementary_tables/)

The following table shows the number and percentage of working age adults in Peterborough city council with no qualifications for each year from 2001 to 2009, which includes the most recent data available. These estimates are taken from the Annual Population Survey from 2004 onwards, and its predecessor the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey from 2001 to 2003.

Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals<sup>1</sup> (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of  $\pm 2.2$  percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 2.2pp above the estimate and 2.2pp below the estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Those given are 95% confidence intervals

*Estimates of people aged 19 to 59 (F)/64 (M) holding no qualifications in Peterborough city council*

|      | Number<br>(thousand) | Percentage | Confidence<br>interval |
|------|----------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 2001 | 14                   | 15.4       | $\pm 2.1$ pp           |
| 2002 | 16                   | 16.3       | $\pm 2.1$ pp           |
| 2003 | 14                   | 15.0       | $\pm 2.1$ pp           |
| 2004 | 14                   | 15.4       | $\pm 2.2$ pp           |
| 2005 | 14                   | 15.1       | $\pm 2.2$ pp           |
| 2006 | 15                   | 16.0       | $\pm 2.2$ pp           |
| 2007 | 14                   | 15.1       | $\pm 2.2$ pp           |
| 2008 | 14                   | 14.8       | $\pm 2.2$ pp           |
| 2009 | 11                   | 12.1       | $\pm 2.1$ pp           |

Base:

19-59/64-year-olds, Peterborough city council

Source:

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (2001-03) and Annual Population Survey (2004-09).

#### Social Enterprises

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of turnover in the social enterprise sector in each region in each of the last five years. [38463]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

An assessment of the turnover of the social enterprise sector in each region in each of the last five years has not been made. The latest official estimates suggest that small and medium-sized social enterprises make an annual contribution of approximately £24 billion to Gross Value Added (GVA).

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many social enterprises there were in each region in each of the last three years. [38464]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

An assessment of how many social enterprises there are in each region has not been made. However, the latest official estimates from October 2009 suggest that there are approximately 62,000 social enterprises in the UK.

#### Students: Loans

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what external advice he has received on the potential sale of the student loan book; and what the cost to the public purse was of obtaining such advice. [39521]

**Mr Willetts** [holding answer 10 February 2011]: The Government are undertaking a feasibility study on the viability of monetising the £30 billion student loan portfolio. The Government have received investment banking, legal and accounting advice on a range of potential options. The cost of the feasibility study to date has been £700,000.

#### TREASURY

##### Banks: Pay

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the document CRD3 Briefing on the Committee of European Banking Supervisors Guidance on Remuneration Provisions in the Capital Requirements Directive; and if he will make a statement. [37397]

**Mr Hoban** [holding answer 31 January 2011]: The document referred to is an internal document, written by officials for a Minister, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such documents as its release could prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.

##### Capital Gains Tax

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the amount of capital gains tax raised on the sale of residential properties in (a) 2007-08, (b) 2008-09 and (c) 2009-10. [37990]

**Mr Gauke:** Capital gains tax paid depends on the taxpayer's total gains, losses, and reliefs claimed so it is not possible to attribute amounts of tax to specific types of asset disposal.

The latest estimates available for the number of disposals, disposal value and gains made on assets disposed of in 2007-08 by type of asset, including residential property, are in National Statistics table 14.4 on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital\\_gains/table14-4.pdf](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/table14-4.pdf)

##### Debts: Advisory Services

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to announce future plans for funding debt advice following the ending of the financial inclusion fund. [40184]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the FIF, including the face-to-face debt advice service. We expect to do so soon.

The Government are committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

##### Departmental Information Officers

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed (a) as press officers, (b) as internal communication officers, (c) as external communication officers, (d) as communications strategy officers and (e) in other positions with a communications remit by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [39372]

**Justine Greening:** As part of the Government's transparency agenda, HM Treasury published a departmental organogram in November 2010. This included information on the number of people employed in communications roles. This is available on the HMT website:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/hmtgroup\\_organogram291010.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/hmtgroup_organogram291010.pdf)

The UK Debt Management Office currently employs two press officers; the roles take up to a third of each of their time.

The Asset Protection Agency currently employs one full time External Communications Officer.

#### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each devolved administration in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39402]

**Danny Alexander:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the departmental expenditure limit budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the Main and Supplementary Estimates.

#### EU Economic Policy

**Mr Cash:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the conclusions of the February 2011 European Council, what criteria the European Council will use to judge the successful implementation of existing fiscal programmes with Greece and Ireland. [40345]

**Mr Hoban:** The adjustment programmes are assessed against compliance with the conditions set out in the Memoranda of Understanding that Greece and Ireland have signed with the IMF and the European Commission. These are available from the IMF's website on:

Greece

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/loi/2010/grc/080610.pdf>

and

Ireland

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/loi/2010/irl/120310.pdf>

**Mr Cash:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to the conclusions of the February 2011 European Council, what further steps heads of state or government plan to take in the euro area to achieve a better quality of economic policy co-ordination; and by what means they plan to reconcile the likely effect of such steps with the continued operation of the single market; [40346]

(2) with reference to the conclusions of the February 2011 European Council, on what terms the European Council plans to invite non-euro members to participate in economic policy co-ordination; and (a) whether and (b) to what extent such members are to be legally bound by such co-ordination. [40347]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government welcome the commitment of the Heads of State or government of the euro area and the EU institutions in their statement, annexed to the European Council conclusions, "to ensure the stability of the euro area".

In that context, the Government will consider the merits of any future proposals for euro area economic policy co-ordination as and when they are set out, but share the view expressed in the statement that any such co-ordination must not undermine the single market.

#### Excise Duties

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was paid out through the drawback duty regime in (a) 2008, (b) 2009 and (c) 2010; [37281]

(2) what the annual value was of drawback duty fraud in the latest period for which figures are available; [37352]

(3) what criteria are required to be met before drawback duty is repaid to claimants. [37396]

**Justine Greening [holding answer 31 January 2011]:** Combined amounts paid out through drawback for alcohol, tobacco and energy products, from 2008 to 2010, are as follows:

|      | Amount (£)  |
|------|-------------|
| 2008 | 130,819,897 |
| 2009 | 116,817,787 |
| 2010 | 117,442,462 |

The best estimate for drawback related fraud is around £25 million per year.

Drawback claimants must meet a number of criteria before repayment will be made. These include:

providing Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs with notification of their intention to claim drawback;

making the goods available for inspection; and

submitting a claim for drawback with supporting evidence showing:

that goods are UK duty paid;

evidence of export where goods are exported to a country outside the EU; and

evidence of receipt and that duty was collected in the member state of destination where goods are being dispatched to another EU member state.



### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions (a) he and (b) Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the logistics industry to discuss the likely effects of scheduled fuel duty rises in the last six months; [40337]

(2) if he will assess the likely effects of the planned fuel duty rise on (a) the logistics industry and (b) other businesses in Wales from April 2011. [40338]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain) on 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 117W. The Government routinely discuss tax matters with industry stakeholders and assesses a range of factors. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

### Inheritance Tax

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised from inheritance tax in (a) 2007-08, (b) 2008-09 and (c) 2009-10. [37929]

**Mr Gauke:** Receipts from inheritance tax in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are published in the National Statistics table "HM Revenue and Customs Receipts" available from the HMRC website at;

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax\\_receipts/tax-receipts-and-taxpayers.pdf](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/tax-receipts-and-taxpayers.pdf)

### Lloyds Banking Group: Sales

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of the forthcoming sale of assets of Lloyds Banking Group in which UK Financial Investments has a significant holding, if he will maintain the position of the previous administration that such institutions will not be sold to any of the existing major companies in the UK banking industry. [40447]

**Mr Hoban:** As a condition of EU state aid approval for the aid they have received, Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) are required to execute a UK retail divestment amounting to a 4.6% market share of the personal current accounts market and at least 600 branches. The terms of the state aid agreement commit that the buyer of the divestment must, in combination with the divestment

business, have a personal current accounts market share of no more than 14% in the UK. UKFI manages the Government's investments on financial institutions as an active and engaged shareholder, operating on a commercial basis and at arm's length from Government.

Subject to complying with the terms of the state aid agreement with the European Commission, the sales are being managed and led by each firm's independent management team with a view to maximizing shareholder value, including that of the Government.

### Revenue and Customs: Procurement

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the list of companies shortlisted by HM Revenue and Customs to tender for the contract to provide print services as its preferred print vendor partner. [39795]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC are currently engaged in a formal procurement process and issued the invitation to tender (ITT) to nine shortlisted suppliers on 7 February 2011. It would be inappropriate on grounds of commercial confidentiality to name shortlisted suppliers at this time. On conclusion of the process, the name of the successful supplier will be publicly announced.

The ITT also specifies that during the procurement process, shortlisted tenderers should not disclose that they have been shortlisted.

### UK Financial Investments

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of UK Financial Investments Ltd in meeting its objectives of promoting competition. [40445]

**Mr Hoban:** The banks in which the Government have an investment are managed on an arm's length and commercial basis by UK Financial Investments (UKFI).

UKFI's mandate is to develop and execute a strategy for disposing of the Government's investments in financial institutions in an orderly and active way, within the context of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer as shareholder and paying due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to acting in a way that promotes competition.

The Government are determined that the investments in financial institutions do not prevent or distort effective competition, or contravene normal merger control or competition law restrictions.

## Written Answers to Questions

Monday 14 February 2011

### ATTORNEY-GENERAL

#### Offenders: Homicide

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Attorney-General what discussions he has had with the Crown Prosecution Service on the rate of convictions for offenders of corporate manslaughter. [40220]

**The Attorney-General:** As part of his superintendence of the Crown Prosecution Service the Attorney-General has regular contact and discussion with the Director of Public Prosecutions about a range of topics.

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Attorney-General if he will review the Crown Prosecution Service's practices in respect of bringing prosecutions for offences of corporate manslaughter. [40221]

**The Attorney-General:** I have no plans to review the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) practices in relation to prosecutions for offences of corporate manslaughter.

The CPS reviews all cases, including cases involving corporate manslaughter, in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors (the Code), which is issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions under section 10 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1895. The latest version of the Code was published in February 2010.

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 introduced a new statutory offence of corporate manslaughter for offences occurring on or after 6 April 2008. Any offences that are alleged to have occurred before 6 April are considered by the CPS under the old common law of manslaughter by gross negligence.

### FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

#### Afghanistan: Christianity

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Afghan counterpart on the treatment of Afghan Christians; and if he will make a statement. [40908]

**Alistair Burt:** We work closely with international partners to monitor the situation of Afghan Christians and to raise this issue with the Afghan Government.

We continue to remind the Afghan Government of its duty to abide by its national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief, and to respect the freedom of worship as enshrined in the Afghan constitution.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Afghan counterpart on the case of Said Musa; and if he will make a statement. [40910]

**Alistair Burt:** We are working with international partners to monitor developments and to raise this case with the Afghan Government. During his visit to Afghanistan in January 2011, the UK Attorney-General raised this case with the Afghan Attorney-General.

We continue to remind the Afghan Government of its duty to abide by its national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief, and to respect the freedom of worship as enshrined in the Afghan constitution.

#### Afghanistan: Religious Freedom

**Kris Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Afghanistan in respect of the death sentence passed on Said Musa. [40156]

**Alistair Burt:** Said Musa is in custody, charged with conversion and apostasy. He has not yet been brought to trial or sentenced to death. We are working with the international community to monitor developments and to raise this case with the Afghan Government. The UK Attorney-General raised this case with the Afghan Attorney General during his visit to Afghanistan in January 2011.

We continue to remind the Afghan Government of their duty to abide by their national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief and to respect the freedom of worship as enshrined in the Afghan constitution.

#### Belize: Guatemala

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the state of relations between Belize and Guatemala. [40923]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The UK works to maintain momentum towards a lasting resolution of the territorial dispute between Belize and Guatemala. I discussed the dispute with the Guatemalan Foreign Minister in Guatemala in November. He welcomed recent progress, including the unanimous vote by Guatemala's Congress to allow a referendum in Guatemala on the issue of whether to take the border dispute to the International Court of Justice.

The Governments of Belize and Guatemala must now agree a date to hold national referenda in their two countries. We welcome the positive and crucial role of the Organisation of American States Mission to the Adjacency Zone between Guatemala and Belize, including its efforts to maintain peace and security, and build confidence between the communities living there. We welcome Guatemala's adoption of the bilateral Partial Scope Trade Agreement, which will facilitate trade between the two countries and which has quickly delivered an increase in agricultural exports from Belize to Guatemala.

### Egypt: British Nationals Abroad

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of UK nationals remaining in Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [40921]

**Alistair Burt:** Our primary concern throughout the political unrest in Egypt has been the safety of visiting or resident British nationals. We estimate that there are approximately 20,000 British nationals remaining in Egypt.

### Egypt: Politics and Government

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his American counterpart on the political situation in Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [40918]

**Alistair Burt:** I spoke to Secretary of State Clinton on 30 January 2011 by telephone and the Prime Minister met her on 5 February 2011 while attending the Security Conference in Munich.

We discussed the need for consistent messages to the Egyptian Government encouraging them to create a more broad-based Government, commit to human rights and freedom of expression, and ensure an orderly transition to free and fair elections.

### European Union

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the European Affairs Committee of the Cabinet has met since May 2010; whether that committee has discussed the return of powers and competences from the EU; and which EU directives and other EU legislation that committee has considered. [38900]

**Mr Maude:** I have been asked to reply.

It is longstanding Government practice not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

### European Union Bill

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department have been assigned to work on the European Union Bill. [40122]

**Mr Hague:** There are currently seven officials working on the European Union Bill full-time. In addition, a number of other officials make contributions to the ongoing work in this area as part of their existing duties.

### Gilad Shalit

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has undertaken to bring about the release of Gilad Shalit; what discussion he has had at UN level on the release of Gilad Shalit; and if he will make a statement. [R] [39614]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer the hon. Member to the response given by my noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford, to my noble Friend Baroness Tonge, on 25 January 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA139.

Our embassy officials in Tel Aviv are in touch with Gilad Shalit's parents and their representatives whenever there is a development on his case and have held a number of meetings with them. We are always open to any requests for meetings and offering assistance wherever it is feasible.

### Hong Kong: Passports

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people are employed in the regional passport processing centre in Hong Kong. [39701]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Regional Passport Processing Centre in Hong Kong employs 24 people.

### Israel

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on civil unrest in (a) Egypt and (b) Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [39622]

**Alistair Burt:** We have a close dialogue with the Government of Israel at ministerial and official level. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend, discussed the situation in Lebanon with Foreign Minister Lieberman during his visit to London on 24 January 2011. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv has also discussed the situation in Egypt with the National Security Adviser to Netanyahu underlining our views on the need to ensure a peaceful and dignified transition.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on Israel's security concerns since January 2010; and if he will make a statement; [39627]

(2) what steps he has taken to strengthen relations with the government of Israel since July 2010; what steps he plans to take to strengthen such relations in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [39739]

**Alistair Burt:** We have regular dialogue with the Government of Israel at both ministerial and official level. I visited Israel and the Occupied Territories in January 2011 and met Foreign Minister Lieberman. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs also visited in November 2011. Foreign Minister Lieberman met with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I when he visited London on 24 January 2011. Officials will attend the Strategic Dialogue talks in March 2011 in Israel. A wide range of issues were discussed at these various meetings, including security.

We have a strong and productive relationship with the Israelis where we can speak frankly to each other. In his press statement of 24 January 2011 the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs stressed the British Government's commitment to a strong bilateral relationship with Israel.



### Middle East

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the extent of arms smuggling into Gaza; what discussions he has had since December 2010 with the Government of (a) Israel and (b) Egypt on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [R]

[39616]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with (a) the Government of Israel and (b) the Palestinian Authority on the position of Hamas on peace talks between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement; [R]

[39623]

(3) what his policy is on the recent statement by Hamas on peace talks between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement; [R]

[39624]

(4) what steps he has (a) taken since December 2010 and (b) plans to take during the next six months to press Hamas to accept the Quartet Principles and join the negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement; [R]

[39626]

(5) what recent steps he has taken to assist the Government of Israel in preventing weapons smuggling into the Gaza Strip; and if he will make a statement; [R]

[39628]

(6) what steps he has taken to assist the Government of Israel to (a) increase the amount of aid entering the Gaza Strip and (b) facilitate exports from the Gaza Strip; and if he will make a statement since 1 January 2010. [R]

[39629]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to my responses of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 22-23W and also of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 555W.

As my hon. Friend is aware, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised the situation in Gaza with Prime Minister Netanyahu when he visited Israel in November. I also discussed Gaza at length with the Israeli Co-ordinator for Government Activity in the Territories (COGAT), General Dangot, when I visited the region on 16-19 January 2011. Officials at our embassy in Tel Aviv raise Gaza access with the Government of Israel on a regular basis. We are also part of the Gaza Counter Arms Smuggling Initiative and my officials participate in regular discussions with key partners, including Israel and the US, most recently on 9 February.

On 8 February 2011 I welcomed economic plans for West Bank and Gaza and underlined the need for full implementation. I said:

"We continue to encourage the Government of Israel to enable Gaza exports this year to attain the levels of 2007. We strongly echo Tony Blair's call for an end to all attacks on Israel from Gaza. We will continue to work with the Quartet Representative, the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to re-open Gaza for business. The British Government believes that a strong economy in the Occupied Territories is key to promoting peace, stability and prosperity."

We welcome any progress, such as Israel's approval of the 20 projects in Gaza including the seven United Nations Relief and Works Agency schools they announced on 4 February 2011 and we encourage more.

On Hamas, we are concerned by reports that they continue to acquire and test a variety of weapons. This is a continuing picture and we are not able to comment further on the detail. However, we have long made it clear that the arming and funding of Hamas and other Palestinian rejectionist groups is unacceptable.

We continue to call on Hamas to take concrete steps towards the Quartet principles: renouncing violence, recognising Israel and accepting previously signed agreements.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his (a) Israeli and (b) Palestinian counterpart on a universal statehood strategy since December 2010; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [39620]

**Alistair Burt:** During my visit to Israel and the Occupied Territories in January, I met with Foreign Minister Lieberman and President Abbas. I stressed that the UK sees negotiations towards a two state solution as the only way to meet the national aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians and lead to a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian state living in peace and security alongside a safe and secure Israel and their other neighbours in the region. This message was reinforced by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he met with Foreign Minister Lieberman on 24 January 2011.

In response, both parties were already aware that this was the UK Government's position.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on security threats from (a) Gaza, (b) Lebanon and (c) Iran; and if he will make a statement. [39619]

**Alistair Burt:** We have regular dialogue with the Government of Israel at both ministerial and official level. I visited Israel and the Occupied Territories in January 2011 and met Foreign Minister Lieberman. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs also visited in November 2011. Foreign Minister Lieberman met with the Secretary of State and myself when he visited London on 24 January 2011. Officials will attend the Strategic Dialogue talks in March 2011 in Israel. A wide range of issues were discussed at these various meetings, including security.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make it his policy to encourage the leadership of the Palestinian Authority to return to direct negotiations with the Government of Israel; what recent discussions he has had with (a) the Government of Israeli and (b) the Palestinian Authority on a return to direct negotiations; and if he will make a statement; [39621]

(2) what steps he has (a) taken since December 2010 and (b) plans to take during the next six months to maintain confidence in the peace process between the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement. [39625]

**Alistair Burt:** We are concerned with the current impasse in talks and see an urgent need for progress. Since December 2010, we have been engaged energetically with the parties, the US and the EU. During my visit in mid-January, I spoke with President Abbas and urged him to find a way to return to talks. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman when he visited the UK and stressed that the window for peace in the middle east is closing, and the continued occupation is eroding Israeli security and international support for Israel. The Secretary of State has also spoken regularly with Secretary Clinton and EU Ministers on next steps in the peace process. We will continue these efforts over the next six months.

#### **Palestinians: Overseas Aid**

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether his Department has allocated funds to the Palestinian authorities for the training of police and security forces in the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [39038]

(2) whether his Department has been involved in the training of Palestinian Authority personnel in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [39077]

**Alistair Burt [holding 10 February answer 2011]:** The British Government have been involved in a programme to build the capacity of the Palestinian security forces for a number of years.

Currently the UK provides direct budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) as part of our commitment to Prime Minister Fayyad's state building agenda. Part of his agenda is the reform of the Palestinian Security forces. A condition of our memorandum of understanding is that the PA must make progress on human rights.

In addition we offer support through the Middle East and North Africa Conflict Pool (MENA CP)—a tri-departmental programme funded jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Department for International Development (DfID). Approximately two thirds of the MENA CP budget for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories focuses on improving the performance of the Palestinian security sector through a combination of support to the United States' Security Co-ordinator (USSC) and to the European policing and rule of law missions in the West Bank. The MENA CP support to the Palestinian Authority security forces is designed to enhance the forces' professionalism and build their capability to improve their performance against internationally recognised human rights standards and accountability.

In recent years, UK programme funds have helped provide technical advice on governance, leadership and human rights issues to the Palestinian Security Sector, including the Civil Police, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence.

The UK condemns any abuse of human rights. We take allegations of human rights abuses extremely seriously and are studying recent allegations of mistreatment by the Palestinian Authority security forces carefully. I raised the issue of human rights abuses when I met Prime Minister Fayyad on his recent visit to the region and asked for a concrete assurance that allegations would be investigated and appropriate actions taken. Prime Minister Fayyad gave this, noting that the PA was addressing this issue not just as a result of international pressure, but because he had a deep personal conviction that human rights should be respected and at the heart of a future Palestinian state.

#### **Peru: Catholicism**

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of the UK's relations with the Catholic Church in Peru; and if he will make a statement. [40502]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Through our embassy in Lima we maintain a regular and friendly dialogue with senior representatives of the Roman Catholic Church in Peru. Since our ambassador's arrival in Peru in August 2010, he has met the Papal Nuncio several times. During these meetings they discussed our shared interests in tackling poverty, social conflict and climate change.

Through the Department for International Development's Latin America Partnership Programme Arrangement we have also worked with Catholic charities, such as Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), to tackle maternal health, poor education and disease.

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made representations to the Catholic Church in Peru on ending support for community protests against mining companies. [40503]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We welcome the important role of the Catholic Church in promoting good community relations throughout Peru. We are aware of allegations that third parties have pushed for the removal of Catholic bishops to new posts away from certain communities in Peru. We have not sought to influence any church appointment.

#### **Russia: Human Rights**

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to hold discussions with his Russian counterpart on the rule of law and the fundamental human rights of Russian nationals during the forthcoming bilateral meeting; and if he will make a statement. [40801]

**Mr Lidington:** I can confirm that the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will hold discussions with Foreign Minister Lavrov on human rights and the rule of law.

The Government continue to work with Russia on addressing ongoing human rights issues. We support President Medvedev's focus on the need to strengthen

the rule of law in Russia including promoting the independence of the judiciary. A transparent and independent Russian legal system is in all our interests. We encourage Russia to ensure that all human rights violations are investigated fully, promptly and impartially.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the (a) case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, (b) case of Platon Lebedev, (c) death of Sergey Manitsky, (d) death of Anna Politkovskaya, (e) death of Natalya Estemirova and (f) death of Stanislav Markelov with his Russian counterpart during the forthcoming bilateral meeting.

[40802]

**Mr Lidington:** Human rights are an important part of our bilateral relationship with Russia, and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will raise our concerns about the rule of law and human rights issues highlighted by these high profile cases.

#### South Africa: Rape

**Mr Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his South African counterpart measures to combat the practice of corrective rape in that country.

[39580]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UK opposes discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in all circumstances. We believe that human rights are universal and should apply equally to all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Government of South Africa place a high priority on the fight against all crime, especially that involving sex and violence. However the South African police service is struggling to meet the challenge. The UK Government, through our high commission in Pretoria, are in regular contact with the Government of South Africa and the South African police service about our concerns over the crime rate, including rape. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

The Department for International Development is also planning a new four-year programme in South Africa to address the high levels of gender based violence. This is likely to focus on preventing sexual and physical violence and improving the response to violence. These plans are subject to the outcome of the bilateral aid review (expected to be announced before the end of March).

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds a regular dialogue with South Africa on all issues, including human rights. While I have not personally raised the issue of corrective rape, colleagues at our high commission in Pretoria will do so at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### Tunisia: Politics and Government

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to meet his Tunisian counterpart; and what issues he plans to raise at that meeting.

[40920]

**Alistair Burt:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited Tunisia on 7 and 8 February. He did not meet his counterpart but did have

substantive meetings with the Prime Minister, Mohamed Ghannouchi, and the Minister for International Co-operation, Mohammed Jouini. The Foreign Secretary raised several issues including the importance of following through on the commitments already made by the interim Government on political and economic reform. These measures needed to be swift and irreversible.

They also discussed the importance of elections and the need for them to be fair and open to all. The economy needed to get back on track, however, in order to attract investment to the country companies would need to be assured that the system would be open and transparent.

The UK will follow progress closely. Our ambassador in Tunis and I will continue to have regular discussions with the Tunisian Government during the transition to democracy. We stand ready to help with this process both in preparation for elections and towards further democratisation.

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Tunisia; and if he will make a statement.

[40922]

**Alistair Burt:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was in Tunis last week and had discussions with, among others, Prime Minister Ghannouchi, Minister of International Co-operation Jouini and a group of young Tunisians who had been involved in the protests. He was able to see first hand that the security situation has improved and that stability is returning. Prime Minister Ghannouchi's Government have announced a number of measures towards political and economic reform and requested election monitoring assistance from the EU. It will be important that these measures are implemented fully and that elections, open to all parties, are undertaken later this year in order to show the people of Tunisia that change is real and irreversible.

Tunisia has made great strides over the past three weeks and we hope that this momentum continues. We will continue to work with partners, including in the EU, to promote political reform.

#### West Bank

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [R]

[39617]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 20-21W.

As indicated there, the Quartet met in Munich on 5 February 2011 to discuss events in the Middle East.

In their statement they said:

"The Quartet reaffirmed that negotiations should lead to an outcome that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and resolves all permanent status issues, in order to end the conflict and achieve a two-state solution. The Quartet reiterates its support for concluding these negotiations by September 2011. In its discussions with the parties, the Quartet is giving serious consideration to their views on how to bring about resumed negotiations on all core issues, including borders and security.



The Quartet commended President Abbas' leadership of the Palestinian Authority, and continued Palestinian statebuilding efforts. It welcomed the package of measures announced by Prime Minister Netanyahu and Quartet Representative Blair for both the West Bank and Gaza and encourages full implementation and additional steps."

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the economic situation in the West Bank; what recent discussions he has had with the (a) Government of Israel, (b) Palestinian Authority, (c) World Bank and (d) International Monetary Fund on the economic situation in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [39618]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to my response to him on 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 231W.

On 8 February 2011, I welcomed economic plans for west bank and Gaza and underlined the need for full implementation.

In a statement on 6 February 2011 I said:

"The British Government welcomes Friday's announcement by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Quartet Envoy Tony Blair. As Tony Blair said, the practical implementation of these measures will be key. We continue to encourage the Government of Israel to enable Gaza exports this year to attain the levels of 2007. We strongly echo Tony Blair's call for an end to all attacks on Israel from Gaza. We will continue to work with the Quartet Representative, the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to re-open Gaza for business. The British Government believes that a strong economy in the Occupied Territories is key to promoting peace, stability and prosperity.

More broadly, the continued occupation is hampering peace, economic prosperity and stability in the region. This is not in the interests of either the Israelis or the Palestinians. The window for peace in the Middle East is closing and, as the Quartet statement yesterday made clear, it is imperative the parties return to talks urgently to achieve a two state solution."

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Information Officers

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Prime Minister how many people were employed (a) as press officers, (b) as internal communication officers, (c) as external communication officers, (d) as communications strategy officers and (e) in other positions with a communications remit by 10 Downing street on the most recent date for which figures are available. [39373]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the departmental structure chart for the Cabinet Office which includes 10 Downing street. This is available on the No. 10 website:

<http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/org-charts.php>

### Members: Correspondence

**Margaret Hodge:** To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Barking of 22 November 2010 on the impact of changes to housing benefit in Barking. [36471]

**The Prime Minister:** A reply has been sent.

## Remploy: Termination of Employment

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer to the right hon. Member for Cynon Valley of 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 857, what the evidential basis was for his statement that the Government inherited the plan for phasing out Remploy workers; and if he will make a statement. [40265]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 421W.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Immigration and Asylum Tribunal

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to issue the visa to Mr Lateef Adejumo granted on appeal by the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal on 8 October 2010 under appeal number 1A25223/2010; and what the reason is for the time taken to issue the visa. [40243]

**Damian Green [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The UK Border Agency processed Mr Adejumo's allowed appeal determination and issued him with the appropriate leave to remain on 2 February 2011. In respect of the delay in implementing the decision of the tribunal, the unit responsible for issuing the grant of leave processed Mr Adejumo's application in date order according to when it was received.

### Academic Freedom

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to address extremism on university campuses. [36667]

**Nick Herbert:** As part of the review of the Prevent strategy, currently under way, we are working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a package of measure to help universities manage the risks posed by extremism on campuses and support students who may be vulnerable to extremist messages. All higher education institutions in England have previously received guidance from the (then) Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in 2008 on how to manage the risks posed by extremism on campuses and can draw upon ongoing support from the police and other local partners.

### Asylum: Afghanistan

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in the tendering process for the proposed reintegration centre for failed Afghan child asylum seekers returned to Kabul. [39731]

**Damian Green:** The tender was for a range of services for failed asylum seekers of all ages, but included a specialist provision for young males aged 16 or 17. The bids have been evaluated and we expect to make a decision soon.

**Asylum: Detainees**

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claimants were released from each detention centre and not removed in each of the last three years. [40791]

**Damian Green:** The information is not available for the requested years. Published information on reasons for leaving detention recommenced last quarter after being discontinued for technical reasons in September 2006. The following table, a subset of the latest published

figures (Persons leaving detention Q3 2010), shows the number of people leaving detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, who had claimed asylum at some stage, by last place of detention for reasons other than removal from the UK in Q3 2010.

The Home Office recommenced publishing information on the number of persons leaving detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers from Q3 2010. Q4 2010 figures will be available on 24 February 2011 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html)

*Persons leaving detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, who had claimed asylum at some stage, other than those removed from the UK, Q3 2010<sup>1</sup>. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6*

|                                                       | Number of persons                          |                                                  |                     |       |                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
|                                                       | Granted leave to enter/remain <sup>7</sup> | Granted temporary admission/release <sup>8</sup> | Bailed <sup>9</sup> | Other | Total detainees <sup>10</sup> |
| <i>Place of last detention</i>                        |                                            |                                                  |                     |       |                               |
| <i>UK Border Agency removal centres</i>               |                                            |                                                  |                     |       |                               |
| Oakington Reception Centre                            | *                                          | 320                                              | 25                  | 5     | 350                           |
| Harmondsworth                                         | —                                          | 225                                              | 20                  | 10    | 255                           |
| Yarl's Wood                                           | *                                          | 155                                              | 25                  | *     | 180                           |
| Brook House                                           | —                                          | 80                                               | 40                  | *     | 120                           |
| Campsfield House                                      | —                                          | 95                                               | 15                  | 5     | 115                           |
| Dover Immigration Removal Centre                      | —                                          | 85                                               | 30                  | *     | 115                           |
| Tinsley House                                         | —                                          | 85                                               | 10                  | *     | 100                           |
| Dungavel                                              | *                                          | 55                                               | 20                  | 5     | 75                            |
| Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre                  | —                                          | 50                                               | 10                  | 5     | 60                            |
| Haslar                                                | —                                          | 40                                               | 15                  | —     | 50                            |
| Lindholm                                              | —                                          | 25                                               | 10                  | *     | 35                            |
| <i>UK Border Agency short-term holding facilities</i> |                                            |                                                  |                     |       |                               |
| Colnbrook Short Term                                  | —                                          | 25                                               | —                   | 5     | 30                            |
| Dover Harbour                                         | —                                          | 25                                               | —                   | —     | 25                            |
| Pennine House                                         | —                                          | 15                                               | —                   | —     | 15                            |
| Harwich                                               | —                                          | *                                                | —                   | —     | *                             |
| Total                                                 | 5                                          | 1,275                                            | 215                 | 35    | 1,530                         |

<sup>1</sup> A detainee is counted if their period of detention comes to an end, this excludes detainees who have simply moved within the UK Border Agency detention estate. Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has left detention on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown, such as a person who has left detention for the purpose of a removal, but who has subsequently been re-detained and then leaves detention again.

<sup>2</sup> Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, \* = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as leaving detention from police cells and Prison Service establishments, if they are recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers.

<sup>3</sup> Figures include dependants.

<sup>4</sup> Persons detained under Immigration Act powers who are recorded as having sought asylum at some stage.

<sup>5</sup> Management information.

<sup>6</sup> Provisional figures.

<sup>7</sup> Short or long-term stay in the UK has been granted.

<sup>8</sup> Decision on the case has not been made.

<sup>9</sup> Detainee has applied for, and been granted, bail at a bail hearing.

<sup>10</sup> Figures are not directly comparable with previous figures on total persons leaving detention due to a revised methodology being used. If a person is moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment and then leaves detention, this person will be included if the detention was solely under Immigration Act powers.

**Bail**

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people on bail were subject to (a) restrictions on access to a telephone or the internet (b) relocation other than to an immigration detention centre, (c) a curfew, (d) a ban on association with certain individuals and (e) restricted areas of movement as a condition of their bail in the latest period for which figures are available.

[39744]

**Damian Green:** As of 9 February 2011 there are 10 individuals who are currently subject to deportation proceedings and under strict bail conditions, such as those listed in my hon. Friend's question. These conditions are imposed by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission.

**Community Relations: Finance**

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated under the Preventing Violent Extremism scheme in (a) South Swindon constituency and (b) each parliamentary constituency.

[35556]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office does not allocate funding to the Prevent counter-terrorism programme according to parliamentary constituencies and funding specific information is not available (a) in respect of the South Swindon constituency and (b) each parliamentary constituency.

However, in the financial year 2009-10, Swindon borough council received a Home Office grant of £50,108.37 for locally based Prevent initiatives, which included; a Prevent development worker; development of a referral process for vulnerable individuals; training and other Prevent related projects. This funding was not exclusive to the South Swindon constituency.

Government funding for the Prevent counter-terrorism programme is currently provided by the Home Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), which allocates funding for the Prevent counter-terrorism programme according to an Area Based Grant.

**Crime Statistics Independent Review**

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on her Department's review of crime statistics.

[41209]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer my hon. Friend to a written ministerial statement given by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 48-49WS, which announced her intention to move responsibility for the publication of crime statistics out of the Home Office to an independent body. We have asked for advice from Jil Matheson, the National Statistician, on this as part of a wider review she is leading to consider cost effective ways to improve the coverage and coherence of our official crime statistics. The National Statistician is due to report at the end of April 2011.

**Crime: Drugs**

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to reduce the incidence of drug-related crime in Leeds.

[40257]

**James Brokenshire** [holding answer 11 February 2011]: The Department's key programme to tackle drug-related crime is the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP). A national programme across England and Wales, DIP is fully embedded within Leeds and is the main route for ensuring drug misusing adult offenders access treatment and support to reduce their offending. Research published by the Home Office in November 2007 found the overall volume of offending of a cohort of 7,727 individuals was 26% lower following identification through a positive DIP drug test in police custody. Around half the cohort showed a decline in offending of around 79% in the following six months.

Local information on drug-related offending in Leeds showed that proven offending in 2009-10 by a cohort of class A drug misusing offenders was 23% lower than predicted for that cohort, given their offending history.

The Government will be enabling local areas to invest significantly in 2011-12 to support the management of drug-misusing offenders. Funding to support the Drug Interventions Programme and the management of drug misusing offenders is around £125 million in 2011-12. Building on this, the police and other local partners in Leeds are delivering an integrated offender management approach to target and manage priority and problematic offenders to reduce crime, including drug related crime.

**Departmental Energy**

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has saved in (a) energy costs and (b) carbon dioxide emissions since bringing in real time energy display.

[39630]

**Damian Green:** The Department's real time energy display (RTD) was introduced in June 2010 and is one of a range of initiatives under way in order to reduce energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions. These include:

- improving heating, cooling and lighting controls and fittings;
- replacing/removing inefficient equipment;
- implementing good housekeeping measures;
- greening ICT; and
- raising staff awareness.

In the six months since the RTD was installed, at 2 Marsham Street, we have achieved an approximate cost saving of £11,400 and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 120 tonnes.

While the savings have been achieved by a variety of actions the RTD has provided a focus for our efforts and useful feedback on our success. It has raised the awareness of energy efficiency in our building and provided transparency on our performance to a wide range of interested stakeholders.

Full details can be found at:

<http://www.ecodriver.uk.com/HomeOffice/>



*Cost and carbon dioxide savings since the introduction of real time reporting*

|                       | Cost (£) | Carbon dioxide (tonnes) |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| July to December 2009 | 413,885  | 3,590                   |
| July to December 2010 | 402,450  | 3,470                   |
| Saving                | 11,435   | 120                     |

*Note:*

The energy data for this period are subject to weather correction.

### Departmental Training

**Kris Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on citizenship training in each of the last three years. [40132]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office has not spent any money on citizenship training in the last three years. Those applicants for citizenship who are required to demonstrate their knowledge of English and life in the UK can purchase the Life in the UK handbook or undertake a course in English for Speakers of Other Languages which also covers aspects of citizenship. Neither of these is subsidised by the Home Office.

### Deportation: Offenders

**Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners who have served their sentence are in prison awaiting removal from the UK. [40312]

**Damian Green:** UK Border Agency management information shows that in 2010, for an average month, approximately 635 foreign national prisoners were detained in prisons and 1,135 detained in immigration removal centres beyond the end of their custodial sentence while deportation was considered. These average figures are based on internal management information and are subject to change.

### Drugs: Bolivia

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to publish the content of her formal objection to the Bolivian Government's proposal to amend the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs to remove the ban on coca leaf chewing. [39945]

**James Brokenshire** [*holding answer 11 February 2011*]: A copy of the Note Verbale to the Secretary-General of the United Nations registering the Government's formal objection to the Bolivian Government's proposal to amend the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the Bolivian Government on their proposed amendment to the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs to remove the ban on coca leaf chewing. [40443]

**James Brokenshire** [*holding answer 11 February 2011*]: I met the Bolivian Foreign Minister, David Choquehuanca Céspedes, on 20 January 2011 to sign a UK/Bolivia Memorandum of Understanding on Drugs Cooperation. During the meeting we had a discussion on Bolivia's proposed amendment to the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961.

### Faryadi Sarwar Zardad

**Mr Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the police investigation in the case involving Faryadi Sarwar Zardad; and if she will make a statement. [38976]

**Nick Herbert:** When Faryadi Sarwar Zardad was convicted of conspiracy to torture and conspiracy to take hostages and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in July 2005, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) estimated that the investigation had cost approximately £1 million, including salary costs of the detectives involved in the case.

The MPS has a group of officers within the Counter Terrorism Command (CTC) who are the first point of contact for any allegations of war crimes received. These officers carry out this work alongside other duties. CTC officers follow guidelines on the investigation and prosecution of allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and torture; the guidelines were revised and agreed with the Director of Public Prosecutions in 2010.

When assessing allegations, officers work to secure corroborating evidence available in this country and abroad to meet the threshold for the CPS to advise whether charges should be brought. Even where a suspect is present in the UK, there is rarely enough corroborating evidence available in this country to meet the charging threshold. In such cases, onward referrals to other agencies, such as to the UK Border Agency, may be considered.

### Immigrants: English Language

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are applied by the UK Border Agency to approve English language tests for entry into the UK under (a) Tier 1, (b) Tier 2 and (c) Tier 4 of the points-based system. [39658]

**Damian Green:** The criteria used to assess English language tests for entry into the UK under (a) tier 1, (b) tier 2 and (c) tier 4 of the points-based system is available on the UK Border Agency website.

The document will be placed in the House Libraries and may be found at the following website address:

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/esol-providers/#header1](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/esol-providers/#header1)

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals used each English language test approved by the UK Border Agency for entry into the UK under (a) Tier 1, (b) Tier 2 and (c) Tier 4 of the points-based system to meet their visa requirement in the latest period for which figures are available. [39661]

**Damian Green:** The information is not centrally recorded in the format requested and could be obtained only by a manual check of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

It is a requirement of the points-based system that relevant English language proficiency must be evidenced. The UK Border Agency records whether those entering the UK satisfy this criterion. The UK Border Agency does not record which English language test provider administered the test.

#### Investor Visas

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of investor visas her Department will award to migrants in each of the next four years; and if she will make a statement. [39551]

**Damian Green:** In 2009 the routes for investors and entrepreneurs accounted for fewer than 300 people. We are in the process of revising the investor route to provide an accelerated route to settlement for larger investments. This change is designed to make the route more attractive to high net worth individuals and increase the number of investors. We will publish details of the changes and an impact assessment shortly.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the granting of investor visas to migrants; and if she will make a statement. [39552]

**Damian Green:** Migrants applying for a visa under the Tier 1 (Investor) route must have access to at least £1 million of their own funds, or £2 million in personal assets and £1 million in a loan, that is disposable and in a financial institution for investment in the UK by way of UK Government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active and trading companies that are registered in the UK.

#### Migrant Workers

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will assess the merits of revising the immigration rules to enable more trained doctors and health care professionals from outside the EU to work in the UK. [39476]

**Damian Green:** The Government have recently announced changes to the rules governing employment of skilled workers from outside the EU, and we are confident these meet the needs of the health care sector.

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effect of changes in immigration rules on the numbers of trained doctors and health care professionals from outside the EU able to work in the UK. [39657]

**Damian Green:** The Government have recently announced changes to the rules governing employment of skilled workers from outside the EU, and we are confident these meet the needs of the health care sector.

#### Migrant Workers

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications have been made for visas under Tier 5 (religious workers) of the points-based visa scheme in each of the last three years. [39745]

**Damian Green:** Tier 5 of the points-based system (PBS) was introduced on 27 November 2008 to cover entry clearance visas for temporary workers and youth mobility. In 2008, there were 10 applications for entry clearance visas under the Tier 5 (religious workers) category, and in 2009 there were 1,290 applications. Figures are based on management information and are rounded to the nearest 5.

Figures on applications for entry clearance visas by category are published annually in Supplementary Table 1c of Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html)

Figures for 2010 are due to be published in Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2010 in August 2011.

#### Police and Crime Commissioners

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements she is making for the appointment of deputies to elected police commissioners. [40246]

**Nick Herbert [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** It is not for the Government to decide whether or not police and crime commissioners should have a deputy. Commissioners will be able to appoint staff, including a deputy if they wish.

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her policy that there should be a legal requirement for a chief constable to co-operate with an elected police commissioner. [40247]

**Nick Herbert [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill empowers police and crime commissioners to hold chief constables to account for the exercise of all functions.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's estimate is of the cost of electing police and crime commissioners in each police authority area. [39877]

**Nick Herbert [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** As stated in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill's impact assessment, elections across England and Wales for police and crime commissioners are estimated at £50 million in 2012. These estimates are based on costs of other national elections, and are therefore not broken down by police force area.

### Police Stations: Temporary Accommodation

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children and young people stayed overnight in police stations because of a lack of available emergency accommodation in the latest period for which information is available. [38332]

**Nick Herbert:** The police and local authorities have a statutory duty to safeguard all children and young people within their area. Although the information requested is not collected centrally it is for local authorities to work with the police to decide on the most appropriate and effective form of emergency accommodation provision in their area for all young people who find themselves without a safe place to stay.

### Police: Accountability

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which (a) individuals and (b) organisations she consulted on the likely level of costs which would be incurred by electing police and crime commissioners. [39208]

**Nick Herbert [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The Home Office has consulted widely on the Police and Crime Commissioners policy, including many detailed conversations with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA), the Electoral Commission, the Association of Electoral Administrators and other Government Departments. While none of these conversations have focused solely on costs, the information and advice provided informed the assessment of costs that was published with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill last December.

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government of the costs of holding elections for police and crime commissioners for each police authority in Wales. [39298]

**Nick Herbert [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The Home Office has had many detailed conversations with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and officials on the police and crime commissioners policy. While none of these conversations have focused solely on costs, the information and advice provided informed the assessment of costs that was published with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill last December.

### Police: Investigations

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had with (a) the Association of Chief Police Officers and (b) the Metropolitan Police on the future deployment of undercover police officers to investigate protest organisations and individuals not engaged in terrorist activities; and if she will make a statement; [38877]

(2) what guidance her Department has issued to police forces on (a) police officers engaging in personal relationships with those they are investigating and

(b) the maximum length of time an officer assigned to undercover duties should remain undercover; and if she will make a statement; [38879]

(3) under what powers police forces sanction the deployment of undercover police officers to investigate protest organisations and individuals not engaged in terrorist activities; and if she will make a statement; [38881]

(4) what criteria police forces use to determine whether to deploy undercover police officers to investigate protest organisations and individuals not engaged in terrorist activities; and if she will make a statement; [38882]

(5) what means police forces use to monitor the activities and effectiveness of undercover police officers investigating protest organisations and individuals not engaged in terrorist activities; and if she will make a statement; [38883]

(6) what methodology is used to assess the effectiveness of undercover police operations used to investigate protest organisations and individuals not engaged in terrorist activities; and if she will make a statement. [38884]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office routinely discusses a range of policing issues with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Metropolitan police.

The deployment of undercover police officers is regulated by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) Act 2000, within which covert investigatory techniques can be used for approved purposes such as the prevention or detection of crime, national security or public safety. Police will evaluate whether to deploy undercover officers, and monitor the effectiveness of their deployment, according to these approved purposes.

The Home Office publishes codes of practice on how practitioners in public authorities may best apply the RIPA regulations. In addition, the independent Office of Surveillance Commissioners provides procedural and interpretational advice and guidance in connection with their regular inspections of the public authorities using RIPA.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary is carrying out a review of the operational accountability of undercover work by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPIOU) and how intelligence activity is authorised in accordance with the law, including consideration of the proportionality of covert tactics.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been spent by police forces on undercover police operations to investigate organisations not engaged in terrorist activities in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement; [38878]

(2) how much has been spent on the protection of former undercover officers that have investigated protest organisations and individuals not engaged in terrorist activities in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [38880]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office does not hold this information. The deployment of resources for undercover policing is an operational matter for chief officers.



**Police: Manpower**

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed by each police authority in England; and how many of those are solely under the direction and control of the authority. [40244]

**Nick Herbert** [holding answer 11 February 2011]: The latest available figures collected by the Home Office are for police officers and staff working in each police force in England as at 30 September 2010. They are shown in the following tables. Separate figures for people employed by each police authority or those under the direct control of police authorities are not collected by the Home Office.

*Police officer strength by police force in each English Government office region (full-time equivalents)<sup>1</sup>*

| <i>Police force area</i>        | <i>Police officers (FTE)<br/>Strength as at 30 September 2010</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>North East</i>               | 7,301                                                             |
| Cleveland                       | 1,694                                                             |
| Durham                          | 1,463                                                             |
| Northumbria                     | 4,144                                                             |
| <i>North West</i>               | 19,306                                                            |
| Cheshire                        | 2,148                                                             |
| Cumbria                         | 1,220                                                             |
| Greater Manchester              | 7,976                                                             |
| Lancashire                      | 3,549                                                             |
| Merseyside                      | 4,414                                                             |
| <i>Yorkshire and the Humber</i> | 12,102                                                            |
| Humberside                      | 2,001                                                             |
| North Yorkshire                 | 1,452                                                             |
| South Yorkshire                 | 2,977                                                             |
| West Yorkshire                  | 5,673                                                             |
| <i>East Midlands</i>            | 9,246                                                             |
| Derbyshire                      | 2,076                                                             |
| Leicestershire                  | 2,258                                                             |
| Lincolnshire                    | 1,197                                                             |
| Northamptonshire                | 1,337                                                             |
| Nottinghamshire                 | 2,379                                                             |
| <i>West Midlands</i>            | 13,853                                                            |
| Staffordshire                   | 2,116                                                             |
| Warwickshire                    | 949                                                               |
| West Mercia                     | 2,303                                                             |
| West Midlands                   | 8,485                                                             |
| <i>Eastern</i>                  | 11,318                                                            |
| Bedfordshire                    | 1,242                                                             |
| Cambridgeshire                  | 1,441                                                             |
| Essex                           | 3,639                                                             |
| Hertfordshire                   | 2,092                                                             |
| Norfolk                         | 1,631                                                             |
| Suffolk                         | 1,272                                                             |
| <i>London</i>                   | 33,778                                                            |
| London, City of                 | 878                                                               |
| Metropolitan Police             | 32,900                                                            |
| <i>South East</i>               | 16,897                                                            |
| Hampshire                       | 3,702                                                             |

*Police officer strength by police force in each English Government office region (full-time equivalents)<sup>1</sup>*

| <i>Police force area</i> | <i>Police officers (FTE)<br/>Strength as at 30 September 2010</i> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kent                     | 3,741                                                             |
| Surrey                   | 1,864                                                             |
| Sussex                   | 3,177                                                             |
| Thames Valley            | 4,412                                                             |
| <i>South West</i>        | 10,701                                                            |
| Avon and Somerset        | 3,264                                                             |
| Devon and Cornwall       | 3,526                                                             |
| Dorset                   | 1,478                                                             |
| Gloucestershire          | 1,295                                                             |
| Wiltshire                | 1,138                                                             |
| Total England            | 134,502                                                           |

<sup>1</sup> This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Source:

Home Office using data received from police forces via the Annual Data Requirement.

*Police staff strength (including PCSOs and designated officers) by police force in each English Government office region (full-time equivalents)<sup>1</sup>*

| <i>Police force area</i>        | <i>Police officers (FTE)<br/>Strength as at 30 September 2010</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>North East</i>               | 4,452                                                             |
| Cleveland                       | 903                                                               |
| Durham                          | 1,062                                                             |
| Northumbria                     | 2,486                                                             |
| <i>North West</i>               | 12,587                                                            |
| Cheshire                        | 1,729                                                             |
| Cumbria                         | 906                                                               |
| Greater Manchester              | 4,938                                                             |
| Lancashire                      | 2,319                                                             |
| Merseyside                      | 2,695                                                             |
| <i>Yorkshire and the Humber</i> | 10,217                                                            |
| Humberside                      | 1,965                                                             |
| North Yorkshire                 | 1,340                                                             |
| South Yorkshire                 | 2,721                                                             |
| West Yorkshire                  | 4,192                                                             |
| <i>East Midlands</i>            | 7,203                                                             |
| Derbyshire                      | 1,504                                                             |
| Leicestershire                  | 1,476                                                             |
| Lincolnshire                    | 1,045                                                             |
| Northamptonshire                | 1,299                                                             |
| Nottinghamshire                 | 1,878                                                             |
| <i>West Midlands</i>            | 8,695                                                             |
| Staffordshire                   | 1,520                                                             |
| Warwickshire                    | 881                                                               |
| West Mercia                     | 1,966                                                             |
| West Midlands                   | 4,328                                                             |
| <i>Eastern</i>                  | 9,034                                                             |
| Bedfordshire                    | 1,000                                                             |
| Cambridgeshire                  | 1,218                                                             |
| Essex                           | 2,482                                                             |
| Hertfordshire                   | 1,856                                                             |
| Norfolk                         | 1,346                                                             |
| Suffolk                         | 1,132                                                             |
| <i>London</i>                   | 19,163                                                            |
| London, City of                 | 373                                                               |

Police staff strength (including PCSOs and designated officers) by police force in each English Government office region (full-time equivalents)<sup>1</sup>

| Police force area   | Police officers (FTE)<br>Strength as at 30 September 2010 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Metropolitan Police | 18,790                                                    |
| South East          | 13,991                                                    |
| Hampshire           | 2,747                                                     |
| Kent                | 2,936                                                     |
| Surrey              | 2,336                                                     |
| Sussex              | 2,511                                                     |
| Thames Valley       | 3,461                                                     |
| South West          | 7,885                                                     |
| Avon and Somerset   | 2,319                                                     |
| Devon and Cornwall  | 2,378                                                     |
| Dorset              | 1,203                                                     |
| Gloucestershire     | 866                                                       |
| Wiltshire           | 1,119                                                     |
| Total England       | 93,227                                                    |

<sup>1</sup> This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Source:

Home Office using data received from police forces via the Annual Data Requirement.

#### Police: Misconduct

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change was in the number of allegations of misconduct recorded against police forces in England and Wales between 2003-04 and 2008-09; and what assessment she has made of the reason for trends in the number of such allegations. [40795]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office does not hold this information, which is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

#### Police: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assumptions she has made in respect of the dropout rate from the Police Pension Scheme attributable to (a) potential increases in contributions and (b) its indexation against the consumer prices index; what assessment she has made of the effect of the dropout rate on the future viability of this fund; and if she will make a statement. [40358]

**Nick Herbert:** At the spending review the Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that some additional members, amounting to 1% of the value of the paybill, would opt-out of all the public service schemes as a result of the proposed increase in pension contributions.

Further consideration of the effects of this policy on the opt-out rate will be made as part of the process of determining the distribution of increases in contributions across members of the Police Pension Schemes. As a principle, the Government have already committed to implementing contribution increases in a progressive way so that higher earners pay higher rates than lower earners.

No assessment has been made of the number of additional members that might opt-out as a result of the change in indexation.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the pension entitlement will be of a member of the Police Pension Scheme who retires after 30 years' full-time service on a salary of (a) £10,000, (b) £15,000, (c) £20,000, (d) £25,000, (e) £30,000, (f) £40,000 and (g) £50,000 if the pension is uprated in line with (i) the retail prices index and (ii) the consumer prices index. [40371]

**Nick Herbert:** There are two pension schemes that apply to police officers. An officer in the Police Pension Scheme 1987 would have a maximum pension of 40/60ths of final salary after 30 years' full time service. There is no automatic lump sum in the 1987 scheme—an officer can choose to exchange some of his or her pension for a lump sum.

An officer in the Police Pension Scheme 2006 would have a pension of 30/70ths of final salary and a lump sum of 120/70ths of final salary after 30 years' full time service.

Pensions at retirement are the same regardless of the index used for uprating.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of active members of the Police Pension Scheme earn (a) between £10,000 and £15,000, (b) between £15,000 and £20,000, (c) between £20,000 and £25,000, (d) between £25,000 and £30,000 and (e) £30,000 and more. [40381]

**Nick Herbert:** The police pension schemes are locally administered by the relevant police authority; the Government do not hold comprehensive data on the schemes. There are some limited data as at 31 March 2008 collected by the Government Actuary's Department. The data on the earnings of active members are not available in the earnings breakdowns requested. However, the following table has the available earnings breakdown of active members as at 31 March 2008:

| Pensionable annual earnings | Active members |            |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|
|                             | Number         | Percentage |
| £0 to £20,999               | 0              | 0          |
| £21,000 to £23,999          | 4,898          | 3          |
| £24,000 to £26,999          | 16,759         | 12         |
| £27,000 to £29,999          | 24,513         | 17         |
| £30,000 plus                | 97,456         | 68         |

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the administration costs of the Police Pension Scheme are for 2010-11; and what such costs were in each of the last 12 years. [40392]

**Nick Herbert:** The requested data are not held centrally.

#### Stop and Search: Dartford

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop and searches were carried out in Dartford constituency in the last five years. [39041]

**Nick Herbert:** The data reported to the Home Office are not broken down below police force area level, so information for Dartford constituency is not available.

The table provided has the total number of stop and searches carried out in Kent from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Data for 2009-10 are due to be published in April 2011.

*Number of persons and vehicles searched under stop and search powers<sup>1</sup> in Kent, 2004-05 to 2008-09*

|         | <i>Number of stop and searches</i> |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 2004-05 | 11,821                             |
| 2005-06 | 12,565                             |
| 2006-07 | 14,186                             |
| 2007-08 | 15,784                             |
| 2008-09 | 17,777                             |

<sup>1</sup> Includes searches of persons or vehicles under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1984 and Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

### Surveillance

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average time taken by a police officer to fill in a form

for the authorisation of surveillance required by the Surveillance Commissioners; and whether she has any plans to reduce this time. [38155]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office has not made such an estimate, but is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers, HM Inspectorate of Constabularies and the Office of Surveillance Commissioners to identify and address areas of unnecessary bureaucracy associated with police use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA'). This includes an examination of the forms used by the police to see whether these can be amended for the purposes of reducing police bureaucracy without jeopardising necessary human rights safeguards.

### Terrorism: Convictions and Offences

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been convicted for offences relating to terrorism in each year since 1 January 2001. [38118]

**Nick Herbert:** The number of persons convicted for terrorism offences in each year since 2001 is contained in the following table.

*Outcomes for persons charged with terrorism related offences*

|                                | <i>Year of arrest</i> |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
|                                | 2001-02               | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | Total |
| Charged                        | 22                    | 63      | 50      | 34      | 45      | 75      | 51      | 39      | 25      | 404   |
| Prosecuted                     | 19                    | 47      | 39      | 28      | 42      | 67      | 42      | 34      | 14      | 332   |
| Convicted                      | 12                    | 34      | 21      | 23      | 35      | 50      | 29      | 24      | 9       | 237   |
| Percentage currently convicted | 55                    | 54      | 42      | 68      | 78      | 67      | 57      | 62      | 36      | 59    |

The Home Office collates and publishes statistics on arrests and outcomes under the Terrorism Act 2000 (Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches). The link to the latest edition of the publication is provided as follows:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1810.pdf>

### Terrorism: Ethnic Groups

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the self-defined ethnicity is of each person (a) examined and (b) detained under the provisions of schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 since its entry into force. [38717]

**Nick Herbert:** Information on the ethnicity of those examined under schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 has been collected by the police service since April 2009. Initially these data were collected on the basis of officer definition. Since April 2010, they have been collected on the basis of self-definition, in line with other ethnicity data collected by the police service. We expect to publish the self-defined ethnicity information for the period April 2010 to March 2011 in autumn 2011.

The officer defined ethnicity of those examined under schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000, throughout the UK, for the period April 2009-March 2010 is set out in the following table:

*Ethnicity of those examined April 2009-March 2010*

| <i>Ethnic origin</i> | <i>Proportion of examinees (percentage)</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| White                | 46                                          |
| Mixed race           | 2                                           |
| Asian                | 27                                          |
| African/Caribbean    | 7                                           |
| Chinese and other    | 19                                          |

The use of schedule 7 is covered by a code of practice which advises that it would be unlawful to select someone based solely on their perceived ethnicity or religion. The code of practice also advises officers on the criteria for selecting individuals for examination and that it should be based on known and suspected sources of terrorism and groups individuals involved in terrorist activity.

### UK Border Agency MP Hotline

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the UK Border Agency MP Hotline was not open on 3 February 2011. [39688]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency's MPs' Inquiry Line was closed on 3 February 2011 to allow staff to attend a training and planning day. During this closure a recorded message directed callers to their regional MP account manager as an alternative source of information.



The Inquiry Line is open Monday to Thursday 09.00-17.00 and Friday 10.30-17.00, including during parliamentary recesses.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many days the UK Border Agency MP Hotline was closed in each of the last 12 months; and for what reasons in each case. [39689]

**Damian Green:** The information is in the following table:

| Date                   | Reason for closure                                               |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 April to 7 May 2010 | Pre-election period—closure in line with Cabinet Office guidance |
| 2 December 2010        | Power failure in building                                        |
| 24 December 2010       | Civil Service Privilege Day                                      |
| 3 February 2011        | Staff training and planning day                                  |

#### Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contract compliance is undertaken in relation to Serco Group plc's contract at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre; and if she will make a statement. [40214]

**Damian Green:** All Immigration Removal Centres operated by the private sector, including Yarl's Wood, have their contracts managed by a central commercial team. The UK Border Agency has a team of staff based in each centre to monitor day to day contract delivery and compliance. Meetings take place with the centre manager at an operational level on a weekly basis and on a commercial level on a quarterly basis.

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received any reports of suspension of staff employed by Serco at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre for alleged misconduct; and if she will make a statement. [40419]

**Damian Green:** UK Border Agency officials have been informed by Serco that two staff employed at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre were suspended pending the outcomes of investigations into unconnected allegations of misconduct. One investigation is ongoing; the other has concluded and the officer involved has returned to work.

The UK Border Agency expects the highest standards of behaviour from its staff and contractors. Where an officer is found to have acted inappropriately, he or she will face sanctions. In the most serious of cases, this can ultimately lead to their certification to work as detention custody officers being revoked.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each devolved Administration in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39401]

**John Penrose:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not provide Barnett consequential funding.

### Hearing Impairment

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many meetings he has had with representatives of the deaf community since his appointment. [39558]

**John Penrose:** To date the Secretary of State has not held any specific meetings with representatives of the deaf community.

### Internet: Advertising

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the internet search advertising market in the last year for which figures are available. [39778]

**Mr Vaizey:** The latest full year figures for the UK are from 2009. The Internet Advertising Bureau/PwC Adspend study shows that UK search advertising revenue was £2.148 billion in 2009. More information can be found at the following website:

[http://www.iabuk.net/media/images/iabresearch\\_adspend\\_adspendfctshth2009\\_6332.pdf](http://www.iabuk.net/media/images/iabresearch_adspend_adspendfctshth2009_6332.pdf)

### Ofcom: Telecommunications

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received from Ofcom on its research into relay services. [39569]

**Mr Vaizey:** Ofcom has not made any formal representations on its recently published market research, but the Ofcom project team dealing with this issue are in regular contact with officials at DCMS about the implementation of all aspects of telecoms policy in the UK.

### Press Complaints Commission

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an assessment of the independence from media organisations of the Press Complaints Commission. [40567]

**Mr Vaizey:** No formal assessment has been made.

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will review the composition of the membership of the Press Complaints Commission. [40568]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Press Complaints Commission is an independent body. Government have no role or remit in appointing its members. As a body concerned with self-regulation, there is good reason for it to have members from the industry whose regulation it oversees, but these form a minority. 10 of the 17 commissioners—including the chair—have no involvement with the press.

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Press Complaints Commission on telephone hacking and blagging allegations. [40570]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) recently wrote to the Department setting out what steps it is taking on this matter. The Commission has established a Review Committee of Commissioners, comprising a former chief constable, a law professor, and an editor from outside Fleet street, to review new evidence and make recommendations. It will also review the PCC's own previous work in this area.

Phone hacking is, of course, a criminal offence, and while it is right that the PCC review matters, we must also be mindful that the Crown Prosecution Service is currently conducting a comprehensive assessment of all material in the possession of the Metropolitan Police Service relating to phone hacking.

#### Public Libraries

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to comply with section 1(1) of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to promote the improvement of the public library service. [39944]

**Mr Vaizey [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** We continue to drive the improvement and development of public library services through the Future Libraries Programme (FLP). The programme was announced in July and is led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the Local Government Association. They are supporting over 30 authorities participating in the programme to explore options that will help them to deliver the front line services communities want and need more efficiently. Learning from the 10 pilot projects will be shared widely to support non-participating authorities to deliver their services more efficiently too. In addition to the FLP the MLA promotes best practice and supports local authorities to develop their library services. Arts Council England will assume responsibility for the library service improvement and development agenda, following the abolition of the MLA.

#### Telecommunications: Hearing Impairment

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase the range, quality and availability of telecommunications equipment for individuals who are (a) deaf, (b) deafblind and (c) hard of hearing. [40903]

**Mr Vaizey:** As part of its implementation of the European Framework on Electronic Communications, Government are supporting deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing telecoms users by pursuing the duty to promote the availability of terminal equipment suitable for disabled users through the e-Accessibility Forum, which draws together Government, industry and the voluntary sector to explore and understand issues of e-accessibility and develop and share best practice across all sectors.

One of the group's workstreams includes looking at what consumer technology and digital equipment is on the market and how issues surrounding affordability and availability of assistive technologies can be overcome.

#### Telecommunications: Sign Language

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take towards ensuring that there is equal access to telecommunications for users of British Sign Language in the next 12 months. [39567]

**Mr Vaizey:** The revised provisions of the EU Electronic Communications Framework, which include revisions to the Universal Services Directive, provide for member states to empower national regulatory authorities (Ofcom in the UK) to specify, where appropriate, requirements to ensure that disabled end-users:

- (a) have access to electronic communications services equivalent to that enjoyed by the majority of end-users; and
- (b) benefit from the choice of undertakings and services available to the majority of end-users.

In order to fully implement this provision, officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have proposed making changes to section 51 of the Communications Act 2003 to clarify Ofcom's power to impose a general condition in relation to equivalence. In addition, they are further analysing the responses to the recent Government public consultation on proposals to implement the revised framework, including article 23a of the USD directive on equivalence of access and choice for disabled end-users.

Ofcom are also undertaking a review of relay service provision for hearing- and speech-impaired users of electronic communications, which includes video relay.

#### Internet Economy

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the conclusions and recommendations of the report *The Connected Kingdom: How the Internet is Transforming the UK Economy*. [39779]

**Mr Vaizey:** We will take into account the findings of this report when developing policy on the internet economy, including the current digital and creative industries growth review which will look at potential opportunities and barriers to growth for these sectors.

#### ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

##### Common Fisheries Policy

**Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the new proposal for a basic regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy will consider (a) fish discards and (b) the role of fishermen in drawing up local management plans. [39606]

**Richard Benyon:** We are calling for radical reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP), and are pressing the European Commission to include measures to (a) tackle discards by providing the incentives and regulatory framework to enable us to catch less but land more of it, for example replacing landing based quota with catch quotas; and (b) simplify and decentralise the CFP to allow those closest to fisheries a role to input into regional management plans.

#### EU Cotton Subsidies

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will seek reform of EU cotton subsidies in the forthcoming negotiations on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. [39578]

**Mr Paice:** I believe that the time has come for the last remaining direct support to the EU cotton sector to be decoupled and the UK will be pursuing this end as part of our negotiating position in the forthcoming common agricultural policy reform round.

#### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food intends to reply to the letter of 1 December 2010 from the hon. Member for Hartlepool on the "Not in my cuppa" and "cows belong in fields" campaigns. [40901]

**Mr Paice:** A reply to the letter in question was sent to the hon. Member's parliamentary office on 15 December 2010. I have arranged for a copy of my reply to be sent to the same address.

#### Sugar Beet

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Rural Payments Agency in relation to the early release of single farm payments to sugar beet growers. [38606]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** Over 85% of claimants under the 2010 single payment scheme were paid in the opening month of the payment window. The remaining payments are being made as soon as the Rural Payments Agency completes the regulatory checks on the claims concerned. There have been no specific discussions in relation to sugar beet growers. Any cases of hardship among those, whether beet growers or farmers, awaiting payment, will be considered under well-established procedures operated by the agency.

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

##### HM Coastguard Proposals for Modernisation

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the HM Coastguard Proposals for Modernisation consultation. [39499]

**Mr Swire:** The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has invited the Transport Minister with responsibility for the maritime sector to visit the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Bangor later this month. This will enable him to consider the service provided by the centre before decisions are made on how best to modernise the coastguard service and introduce changes that will benefit the maritime industry and the public.

##### National Asset Management Agency

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the (a) Irish Minister for Finance and (b) Chancellor of the Exchequer on assets held in Northern Ireland by the Republic of Ireland's National Asset Management Agency. [39501]

**Mr Swire:** The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Paterson) and I discuss these matters from time to time with Treasury Ministers, ministerial colleagues in the Northern Ireland Executive and with the Irish Government. These matters were also raised at a meeting that the Secretary of State held with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in Belfast with Northern Ireland Ministers on 24 November 2010.

##### Northern Irish Economy

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he plans to publish the draft paper on the Northern Irish economy; and what his timetable is for implementation of the recommendations of that report. [39500]

**Mr Swire:** The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and I are working closely with the First and Deputy First Ministers and the Ministers for Finance and for Enterprise in the Northern Ireland Executive. We aim to publish the Government consultation paper on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy soon.

#### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

##### Belize: Overseas Aid

**Valerie Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what (a) projects and (b) organisations in Belize received funding from his Department in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [40803]

**Mr Duncan:** In the past five years, Belize has received debt cancellation from DFID under the Commonwealth Debt Initiative, as well as assistance through the Belize Strategic Fund (BSF). The BSF, which ended in July 2008, provided support to the Government of Belize to implement its Medium Term Economic Strategy and National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan. Support from the BSF was provided to the Auditor General's Office and Ministries of Economic Development, Finance and Human Development, as well as through a non-governmental organisation (NGO), The Society for the Promotion of Education and Research (SPEAR).



Belize currently benefits from DFID Caribbean's regional programme, including support to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the Caribbean Aid for Trade Trust Fund (CARTFund), through which a project at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MOFAFT) to facilitate the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) and Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in Belize has just been agreed. The MOFAFT also recently received support from DFID (through the Inter-American Development Bank) to develop its Aid for Trade Strategy.

#### Departmental Allowances

**Mr Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what allowances are available to officials in his Department working overseas. [39844]

**Mr Duncan:** Information on allowances available to Department for International Development (DFID) officials who work overseas can be found on the DFID website at:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Resource-accounts/Allowances-and-Expenses-Incurred-by-DFID-Employees/>

#### Departmental Energy

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reduction his Department has made in (a) energy costs and (b) carbon emissions since the implementation of a real time energy display. [39653]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has reduced its (a) energy costs by 18% and (b) carbon emissions from energy usage by 6% in its two UK offices, since the introduction of real time energy recording.

These reductions are based on a comparison of consumption and expenditure over the period July 2010, when the real time system was implemented, to the end of January 2011, compared to the corresponding period in the previous financial year.

#### Israel: Agriculture

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had discussions with his Israeli counterpart on international co-operation in agriculture technology relating to farming in arid conditions. [40507]

**Mr Duncan:** No, I have not had any discussions with my Israeli counterpart on international co-operation in agriculture technology relating to farming in arid conditions.

The UK currently has no direct co-operation with Israel on international development. Having recently become a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), we hope Israel will consider joining the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

#### Sudan: Human Rights

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in north Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [40919]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** We remain concerned about the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur, where 40,000 people have been displaced by recent fighting. We are calling on the Government of Sudan and all armed groups to allow UNAMID and aid workers full and unhindered access.

There are serious humanitarian challenges in Eastern Sudan and in the Three Areas—Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and Abyei. The UK is working multilaterally and bilaterally to help address these.

We are closely monitoring the situation of migrants moving from North to South. The UK has worked with the UN and partners to support contingency planning to deal with this, including providing £15 million to the emergency element of the Common Humanitarian Fund.

#### Turks and Caicos Islands: Loans

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications for development policy of the decision to grant a loan guarantee to the Turks and Caicos Islands. [40512]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), like all British Overseas Territories (OTs), is constitutionally dependent on the UK and the UN Charter obliges the UK Government to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of these territories.

Successive White Papers since the 1970s have committed HMG to meet the reasonable assistance needs of the OTs. The International Development Act 2002, enacted by the previous Government, specifically exempts the OTs from the poverty reduction criteria that apply to the rest of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) aid budget.

This Government fully intend to stand by their commitments to the OTs. We will not let TCI fall victim to financial ruin. If DFID had to provide money in the event that the guarantee is called this would not count as official development assistance (ODA).

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the departmental minute of 3 February 2011 on the contingent liability arising from a UK guarantee of a commercial loan to the Turks and Caicos Islands, what plans he has to set conditions for the loan guarantee to the Turks and Caicos Islands should the initial conditions for the provision of the guarantee be met. [40571]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The key conditions for the Department for International Development (DFID) guarantee of commercial lending to the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) are that the TCIG strengthens its capacity and systems to manage its public finances, and achieves a fiscal surplus in the financial year ending March 2013.

These are continuing, not only initial, conditions. Further conditions are not needed because the UK Government currently intends to retain sufficient financial control over public finances in order to ensure that TCIG emerges from its financial crisis as soon as possible, and that the loan guarantee arrangement is no longer needed.

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development objectives for the Turks and Caicos Islands will be achieved by the proposed loan guarantee; and if he will make a statement.

[40796]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The main objective of the proposed loan guarantee is to enable the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) to have access to commercial lending which would not be available without the guarantee. This lending will allow the time TCIG needs to achieve a fiscal surplus by applying the right economic measures.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to support the development of intermediate affordable housing in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement.

[40513]

**Grant Shapps:** I have today announced the publication of the Framework for the Government's Affordable Homes Programme for 2011-15. The programme is designed to support the delivery of up to 150,000 affordable homes through a new investment model which is giving greater flexibilities to social housing providers on the use of assets combined with investment of almost £4.5 billion over the next four years. The Framework document invites bids from providers who are interested in participating.

Affordable Rent will be the principal element of the new programme. Affordable Rent homes will be made available to tenants at up to a maximum of 80% of market rent and allocated in the same way as social housing is at present. There is flexibility within the programme for providers to include provision of affordable home ownership, through both shared ownership and equity loans, to meet the needs and priorities of local communities such as Peterborough where this also offers value for money and increases housing supply.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year.

[40290]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has spent the following amounts on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years:

|         | Spend (£) |
|---------|-----------|
| 2007-08 | 2,338     |
| 2008-09 | 2,657     |
| 2009-10 | 2,850     |

The Department purchases all of its offsets through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). GCOF purchases Gold Standard, or equivalent, Certified Emissions Reduction credits under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism.

### Departmental Furniture

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library copies of each invoice from Kinnarps (UK) Ltd to the Audit Commission in respect of furniture purchases in the last 12 months.

[36897]

**Robert Neill:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

I would comment that, together with the answer to the hon. Member of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 528W, this is a prime example of how the public sector can deliver better value for money, without affecting frontline services, by improving value for money on procurement.

*Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 14 February 2011:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has received a total of 32 invoices from Kinnarps (UK) Ltd in respect of furniture purchases in the last 12 months. Kinnarps were awarded a contract to supply office furniture following a full tendering process. The contract was awarded in July 2007 and expires in July 2011.

In March 2010, our Leeds office moved to new premises, making an important contribution to saving money and reducing the Commission's carbon footprint. All storage and the majority of meeting room furniture was existing re-used furniture as it was still fit for purpose. Some seating was re-used but reupholstered. Other seating was replaced where meeting rooms would also be used as working areas and would need fully adjustable operator chairs. Some other new office furniture was purchased. This was predominantly 'bench style' desks with a much smaller footprint than the desks that were in our previous office and IT sundries. Personal lockers were also purchased to support new ways of working where individuals share desks. It was partly the investment in smaller footprint furniture that allowed us to reduce the overall size of the office from 13,000 sq ft to 8,000 sq ft. The projected overall saving, as a result of this relocation to a smaller office (including any new furniture purchased), was in approximately £750,000 over the next five years.

In addition, the Commission spent some £14,000 replacing furniture at our Gateshead office damaged by flooding from the floor above. The costs were met in full by the insurer of the tenants on the floor above.

Since our abolition was announced on 13 August 2010, we have made only one purchase (totalling £296.10) from Kinnarps (UK) Ltd.

Copies of each invoice will be placed in the Library.

### Departmental Overseas Visits

**Mr Nuttall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cannock Chase of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 743W, on

departmental overseas visits, what the cost to the public purse was of each overseas visit undertaken by the right hon. Member for Tooting. [40914]

**Robert Neill:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood (Eric Ollerenshaw), on 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 941W.

#### Departmental Procurement

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W, on departmental procurement, on what goods and with which suppliers the expenditure of £52,078.16 via Barclaycard was incurred; and how much of this was paid to each such supplier. [36986]

**Robert Neill:** The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister became the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2006 and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office existed as a separate Department until 2007 when it closed and its records were archived. These records would have included records of transactions undertaken using their Government Procurement Card (Barclaycard). The individuals who carried out this storing process have now all moved on. Consequently we have not been able to retrieve the documentation and any cost involved in trying to resolve this would be disproportionate.

#### Departmental Research

**Mr Raynsford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has commissioned since 12 May 2010 on (a) attitudes and (b) morale among (i) its staff, (ii) the staff of its agencies and (iii) the staff of non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible; and if he will make the findings of such research public. [38780]

**Robert Neill [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** My Department (including staff working for the Residential Property Tribunal Service), Ordnance Survey, the Planning Inspectorate and the Fire Service College took part in autumn 2010 in the 2010 Civil Service People Survey. The Highlights reports from the survey have been placed on each organisation's website and all the results have been placed by the Cabinet Office on:

[www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk)

My Department also carried out a Values Survey which ran for two weeks from Monday 28 June. This asked staff to assess how their work area performed against DCLG's four headline values and 18 related behaviours and showed that:

Staff satisfaction with performance on three of the four headline values increased in comparison with the 2009 survey

Staff satisfaction with performance on 17 of the 18 behaviours increased in comparison with the 2009 survey.

I am placing a copy of the People Survey Highlights reports and a summary of the Values Survey in the Library of the House.

#### Domestic Rates

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of (a) the requirement for a property revaluation in order to implement a house price tax on dwellings valued at £2 million or higher and (b) the frequency of such revaluations for the purposes of such a tax. [39842]

**Robert Neill:** There has been no such assessment. The Government have no plans to introduce a house price tax on dwellings of whatever value. I note a house price tax (a discrete capital values system of domestic rates) was introduced by the last Administration in Northern Ireland under direct rule, which necessitated a revaluation of dwellings.

#### Fire Services: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme there are; [40115]

(2) what proportion of (a) active and (b) deferred members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65 years; [40274]

(3) what proportion of members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme are (a) (i) part time and (ii) full time, (b) (A) male and (B) female and (c) (i) active members and (ii) deferred members/pensioners; [40281]

(4) what proportion of active members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme earn (a) between £10,000 and £15,000, (b) between £15,000 and £20,000, (c) between £20,000 and £25,000, (d) between £25,000 and £30,000 and (e) £30,000 and more; [40380]

(5) what the administration costs of the Firefighters Pension Scheme are for 2010-11; and what the costs were in each of the last 12 years. [40395]

**Robert Neill:** This information is not collected centrally by the Department. However, scheme membership data, as at 31 March 2007, can be found in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Valuation 2007 prepared by the Government Actuary's Department:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/ActuarialValutaionGADReport.pdf>

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumptions he has made in respect of the dropout rate from the Firefighters Pension Scheme attributable to (a) potential increases in contributions and (b) its indexation against the consumer prices index; what assessment he has made of the effect of the dropout rate on the future viability of this fund; and if he will make a statement. [40356]

**Robert Neill:** Consideration of the effects of this policy on the opt-out rate will be made as part of the process of determining the distribution of increases in contributions across members of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes. We are engaging with a range of scheme interests on how best to achieve these savings and wish to implement change in a way which minimises increases



in opt-out rates. The Government have already committed to implementing contribution increases in a progressive way so that higher earners pay higher rates than lower earners. No assessment has been made of the number of additional members that might opt out as a result of the change in indexation.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the pension entitlement will be of a member of the Firefighters Pension Scheme who retires after 30 years' full-time service on a salary of (a) £10,000, (b) £15,000, (c) £20,000, (d) £25,000, (e) £30,000, (f) £40,000 and (g) £50,000 if the pension is uprated in line with (i) the retail prices index and (ii) the consumer prices index.

[40370]

**Robert Neill:** Existing members of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, with an accrual rate of 1/60th of final salary for the first 20 years of membership and 2/60th accrual for the last 10 years, would be entitled to (a) £6,667, (b) 10,000, (c) £13,333, (d) £16,667, (e) £20,000, (f) £26,667 and (g) £33,333 if the salaries quoted were the final pensionable salary amounts. A member of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme, with an accrual rate of 1/60th of final salary for each year of members, would be entitled to (a) £5,000, (b) £7,500, (c) £10,000, (d) £12,500, (e) £15,000, (f) £20,000, (g) £25,000 if the salaries quoted were the final pensionable salary amounts.

Because future measures of inflation are not known, it is not possible to estimate uprated amounts.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the Firefighters Pension Scheme of the proposed indexation according to the consumer prices index (a) in 2010-11 and (b) in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years. [40388]

**Robert Neill:** The Department has not made any separate assessment of the likely savings of the changes to indexation.

#### Local Government: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of (a) active and (b) deferred members of the Local Government Pension Scheme are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65 years; [40270]

(2) what proportion of members of the Local Government Pension Scheme are (a) (i) part time and (ii) full time, (b) (A) male and (B) female and (c) (i) active members and (ii) deferred members/pensioners; [40278]

(3) how many members of the Local Government Pension Scheme there are. [40322]

**Robert Neill:** At 31 March 2010, the latest date for which data are available, there were 4,061,000 members of the Local Government Pension scheme in England. Of these, 1,684,000 (41%) were active members, 1,245,000 (31%) were members entitled to deferred benefits and 1,131,000 (28%) were pensioners.

Data are not available broken down by age, gender or employment status.

These data are available in the statistical release 'Local Government Pension Scheme Funds England 2009-10' that was published on 13 October 2010 and is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/pensionscheme/>

The data are as reported to DCLG by the 81 Local Government Pension Scheme administering authorities in England on the annual SF3 form.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumptions he has made in respect of the dropout rate from the Local Government Pension Scheme attributable to (a) potential increases in contributions and (b) its indexation against the consumer prices index; what assessment he has made of the effect of the dropout rate on the future viability of this fund; and if he will make a statement. [40357]

**Robert Neill:** Consideration of the effects of this policy on the opt-out rate will be made as part of the process of determining the distribution of increases in contributions across members of the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales. We are engaging with a range of scheme interests on how best to achieve these savings and wish to implement change in a way which minimises increases in opt-out rates. The Government have already committed to implementing contribution increases in a progressive way so that higher earners pay higher rates than lower earners. No assessment has been made of the number of additional members that might opt out as a result of the change in indexation.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the pension entitlement will be of a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme who retires after 30 years' full-time service on a salary of (a) £10,000, (b) £15,000, (c) £20,000, (d) £25,000, (e) £30,000, (f) £40,000 and (g) £50,000 if the pension is uprated in line with (i) the retail prices index and (ii) the consumer prices index. [40369]

**Robert Neill:** A member of the Local Government Pension Scheme with an accrual rate of 1/60th of final salary for each year of membership would be entitled to (a) £5,000, (b) £7,500, (c) £10,000, (d) £12,500, (e) £15,000, (f) £20,000 and (g) £25,000 if the salaries quoted were the final pensionable salary amounts.

Because future measures of inflation are not known, it is not possible to estimate future uprated amounts.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of active members of the Local Government Pension Scheme earn (a) between £10,000 and £15,000, (b) between £15,000 and £20,000, (c) between £20,000 and £25,000, (d) between £25,000 and £30,000 and (e) £30,000 and more. [40376]

**Robert Neill:** This information is not collected centrally by the Department. Data about fund members can only be obtained from their local authority pension provider.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the Local Government Pension Scheme of the proposed indexation according to the consumer prices index (a) in 2010-11 and (b) in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years. [40387]

**Robert Neill:** The Department has not made any separate assessment of the likely savings of the changes to indexation. The impact of any savings on the scheme's future pension liabilities will be taken into account at each pension funds triennial valuation exercise.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administration costs of the Local Government Pension Scheme are for 2010-11; and what the costs were in each of the last 12 years. [40397]

**Robert Neill:** Details of the pension administration costs of the Local Government Pension Scheme in England for the period 1998-99 to 2009-10, the latest date for which data are available, are given, in £ million, in the following table.

|           | £ million |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1998-99   | 61        |
| 1999-2000 | 63        |
| 2000-01   | 70        |
| 2001-02   | 74        |
| 2002-03   | 77        |
| 2003-04   | 80        |
| 2004-05   | 88        |
| 2005-06   | 91        |
| 2006-07   | 95        |
| 2007-08   | 105       |
| 2008-09   | 114       |
| 2009-10   | 115       |

The last five year's data are available in the statistical release "Local Government Pension Scheme Funds England 2009-10" that was published on 13 October 2010 and is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/pensionscheme/>

The data are as reported to DCLG by the 81 Local Government Pension Scheme administering authorities in England on the annual SF3 form.

#### Local Government: Powers

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the general powers of competence proposed in the Localism Bill with the powers of a primary authority to require enforcement authorities not to proceed with an enforcement action. [39723]

**Greg Clark:** The general power of competence gives local authorities the power to do anything an individual may do. It does not provide local authorities with any new powers of regulation or enforcement. There can, therefore, be no incompatibility with the provisions of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, which is concerned with the proper exercise of such powers. Local authorities will still be required to abide by statutory limitations or restrictions.

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a local authority exercising its powers of general competence could be sanctioned for ignoring a primary authority arrangement. [39724]

**Greg Clark:** The general power of competence will not allow a local authority to ignore a primary authority arrangement under the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. Such arrangements apply to the exercise of certain enforcement powers, and as the general power does not give authorities additional enforcement powers, it cannot be used to circumvent such arrangements. In any case, the exercise of the general power is subject to existing statutory limitations and restrictions such as those set out in that Act.

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that the proposed general powers of competence to be provided to local authorities under the provisions of the Localism Bill are compatible with the requirement in section 66 and 5 of the Regulation Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 for the regulatory authority to satisfy himself prior to granting civil sanctions powers that then will be exercised in the manner required in section 5. [39725]

**Greg Clark:** Section 5 of the Regulation, Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 relates to the exercise of regulatory functions. The general power does not provide local authorities with new regulatory powers. Local authorities will still be required to abide by statutory limitations or restrictions.

#### Planning Permission

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether all buildings designated as agricultural are considered under the same category within the planning process. [39702]

**Robert Neill:** The use of land, including the buildings located thereon, for the purposes of agriculture is not development by virtue of section 55(2)(e) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This means that the use of land or buildings for agricultural purposes is not subject to planning control. The planning definition of agriculture is at section 336(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The construction of agricultural buildings may, however, be subject to planning control depending on the nature of the development proposed.

The construction or use of buildings on agricultural land which would not be for agricultural purposes would generally need planning permission. For example, the establishment on agricultural land of a seed research laboratory is likely to require planning permission.

It is for the local planning authority, in the first instance, to determine whether a building or land is being used for agricultural purposes or otherwise, and to determine whether specific planning permission is required for any development.

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Planning Inspectorate has considered multiple planning applications in the name of Patrick Hanrahan; and what the Inspectorate's policy is on monitoring the submission of multiple applications in different geographical areas under the same name. [39927]

**Robert Neill:** The Planning Inspectorate considered one enforcement appeal and one planning appeal made in the name of Mr Patrick Hanrahan both of which were dismissed on 21 June 2010. Both appeals were in the Local Planning Authority geographical area of Cheshire West and Chester council.

The Inspectorate does not monitor the submission of multiple appeals in the same name in different geographical areas. As a tribunal service making decisions on individual appeals it would have no purpose in maintaining such information as individual appeals must be determined on their merits. However, as data on all appeals are held on a database, were that information to be sought by any party, a list of all appeals made by an individual or company would be compiled and provided on request.

#### Public Houses

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to support the development of community pubs. [40904]

**Robert Neill:** Community pubs are often important local assets. Along with other institutions such as village shops and community centres, pubs can play an important role in strengthening community relationships and encouraging wider social action. We are, therefore, developing a number of measures to help support community pubs.

As part of our determination to shift power to local neighbourhoods, we aim to ensure through the Localism Bill that community organisations have a fair chance to bid to take over and run assets and facilities that are important to them, including local pubs.

The Department will undertake a public consultation into the issue of restrictive covenants on pubs, with a focus on the impact they have on local communities. This will be completed in the summer of 2011.

We are committed to helping firms with business rates: making small business rate relief automatic; introducing a more generous small business rate relief scheme for a year from October 2010; and giving councils powers to levy discretionary business rate discounts—which could, for example, be used to support local pubs.

The Government are also to ban the sale of alcohol below cost price, helping protect pubs from unfair “loss leading” by some shops. Licensing rules will be reformed to make it easier to play live music in local pubs, and the Government have already scrapped the planned 10% rise in cider duties (the so-called cider tax).

We are currently considering the use of a number of social finance initiatives, such as community shares, which will make it easier for community organisations to gain the finance they need to take their plans forward.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40521]

**David Mundell:** All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006 through the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility. In each of the last three years the Scotland Office has been part of the Ministry of Justice for these purposes and data about carbon emissions have been submitted to the Ministry of Justice for inclusion in its returns.

### Scottish Trades Union Congress

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the Scottish Trade Union Congress. [40902]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State has met representatives from the Scottish Trades Union Congress on several occasions in the past few months, most recently in November, to discuss a range of issues and plans to meet them again in the near future.

### VAT: Charities

**Ann McKechnie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the change in the level of value added tax receipts from charitable organisations in Scotland as a result of the increase in the standard rate. [40906]

**Michael Moore:** The coalition Government inherited an exceptional fiscal challenge. The most urgent priority is to tackle the record budget deficit to restore confidence in our economy and support the recovery. Voluntary organisations do a great deal for our country and make a large contribution to our communities. This is why charities in the UK receive £3 billion of tax relief a year, including over £1 billion in Gift Aid and around £200,000 in VAT reliefs.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Fuel Poverty

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what central Government funding was allocated to the alleviation of fuel poverty in each region of the UK in each year for which figures are available; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each of the next five years. [40364]



**Gregory Barker:** The following tables show the actual spend in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the budget for 2010-11 to 2012-13 for the Warm Front scheme.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Warm Front scheme is for England only. Similar schemes are funded by the devolved administrations in Scotland (Energy Assistance Package), Wales (The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme) and Northern Ireland (Warm Homes).

|         | Actual spend (£ million) |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 2008-09 | 397                      |
| 2009-10 | 369                      |
| <hr/>   |                          |
|         | Budget (£ million)       |
| 2010-11 | 348                      |
| 2011-12 | 110                      |
| 2012-13 | 100                      |

It was announced in the spending review that from 2013 support for the most vulnerable will be delivered through the Green Deal for energy efficiency and a new obligation on energy companies.

The spending review 2010 announced that support worth £250 million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million in 2014-15 will be provided by energy suppliers to vulnerable consumers to help with their energy costs. In total suppliers will be required to provide around £1.1 billion in support. The following table shows the funding 2011-12 to 2014-15 for the Warm Home Discount scheme.

|         | Value of the Warm Home Discount scheme (£ million) |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2011-12 | 250                                                |
| 2012-13 | 275                                                |
| 2013-14 | 300                                                |
| 2014-15 | 310                                                |

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to complete and publish his Department's fuel poverty review. [40947]

**Gregory Barker:** We hope to initiate the independent review of the fuel poverty target and definition shortly, with a view to completion by the end of the year.

#### Green Deal

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to include (a) energy savings and (b) water efficiency measures in the Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [39835]

**Gregory Barker:** Green Deal finance will support measures that can be expected to pay for themselves in energy savings over their lifetime and within the period of the finance arrangement.

We will shortly launch a Call for Evidence from industry and other stakeholders on the costs and benefits of a wide range of measures and on how best to formulate an eligibility criteria.

Measures that deliver hot water efficiency may be eligible if they deliver sufficient energy savings to pay for themselves and meet the wider criteria.

#### Solar Power

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 3WS, on feed-in tariffs, what methodology his Department used in order to define a solar installation of over 50 kW as large scale; and if he will make a statement. [40662]

**Charles Hendry:** 50 kW is simply the threshold used in the existing statutory definition of microgeneration which is why it provides the starting point for defining the scope of the fast-track review of large scale solar PV.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the takeup of solar installations in the built environment; and if he will make a statement. [40663]

**Gregory Barker:** We frequently receive representations on the uptake of solar photovoltaics (PV) in the built environment. We also receive regular information from Ofgem on uptake of solar PV under the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. The latest information shows that just over 21,000 solar PV are currently registered for FITs, the vast majority of which are attached to buildings.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis is for his proposal to undertake a fast-track review of all photovoltaic installations greater than 50kW; and if he will make a statement. [40664]

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the number of large-scale solar photovoltaic schemes which will come into operation in the next five years. [40892]

**Gregory Barker:** As the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change confirmed in a written ministerial statement to the House on 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, Columns 2-3WS, we are aware that several large solar photovoltaic (PV) installations have already received planning permission. Industry projections indicate there could be many more in the planning system.

Large-scale solar PV was not fully anticipated in the original feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme and there is a risk that, if unchecked, such schemes could push FITs off trajectory and may make the spending review savings difficult. That is why we have started a fast-track review of such schemes.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effect on certainty and transparency in the market for photovoltaic installations of his proposal for fast-track review of such installations greater than 50kW; and if he will make a statement. [40665]

**Gregory Barker:** I recognise that the industry needs a long-term plan for investment in which it can have full confidence. By bringing forward the first review of feed-in tariffs (FITs) and fast-tracking consideration of

large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV), I intend to bring certainty for industry. We are getting on with work on the fast-track review as quickly as possible and will publish detailed proposals next month.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effect on employment arising from photovoltaic installations of his proposal to fast-track review such installations greater than 50kW; and if he will make a statement. [40666]

**Gregory Barker:** The feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme has been a clear success at stimulating green growth, driving innovation, creating jobs and cutting carbon since its introduction last year. These successes have been delivered by a scheme in which currently all but three of the solar photovoltaic (PV) installations accredited are below 50kW.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change only announced the start of the FITs review, including fast-track consideration of large scale solar PV, on 7 February. Detailed proposals on the fast-track review are being worked up and will be published for consultation next month.

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many large-scale solar photovoltaic schemes have qualified for the Feed-In Tariff scheme since its inception. [40893]

**Gregory Barker:** Data provided by Ofgem show that a total of three large-scale (over 50 kW) solar photovoltaic (PV) schemes have been accredited for Feed-In Tariffs since the scheme started in April 2010. All of these schemes have a total installed capacity of between 50 kW and 100 kW.

#### Solar Power: Israel

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with the Government of Israel on co-operation in the solar power industry. [40508]

**Gregory Barker:** While DECC does engage with Israel through multilateral fora that seek to promote renewable energy, such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Department has not had direct discussions with Israel on solar power.

#### Solar Power: Planning Permission

**Martin Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many solar panel farms generating between one and five megawatts of electricity (a) have received planning permission and (b) are under active consideration. [38712]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department does not routinely collect these data. However, data obtained from RESTATS:

<https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/welcome-to-the-restats-web-site>

and Cornwall county council show six solar park projects have received planning permission since the establishment

of the FITs scheme on 15 July 2010. Data dated 4 February from Cornwall county council also show 14 awaiting planning decision.

#### Warm Home Discount Scheme

**George Hollingbery:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the annual cost of including in the warm home discount individuals with a terminal illness who receive disability living allowance or attendance allowance through the special rules process, but who do not receive pension credit in (a) Meon Valley constituency, (b) Hampshire and (c) nationally. [40506]

**Gregory Barker:** The coalition Government have recently consulted on the Warm Home Discount scheme which would require energy suppliers to provide financial assistance to more of their most vulnerable consumers.

A response on the consultation, including eligibility for support, level of benefit and the cost of targeting this support, will be published in due course.

#### TREASURY

##### Air Passenger Duty

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of (a) liable passengers were charged under and (b) total revenue was received from each band of air passenger duty in the last year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2010-11; [39635]

(2) how much revenue he expects to raise each year from the recent increase in air passenger duty in respect of band (a) A, (b) B, (c) C and (d) D; [39636]

(3) how much was received in air passenger duty from flights to the Caribbean in each of the last five years; [39637]

(4) what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the Exchequer of limiting the standard rate of air passenger duty to business or first class tickets; [39638]

(5) whether he assessed for benchmarking purposes the use of a per plane system of aviation taxation in other countries as part of his aviation taxation review; [39639]

(6) what the (a) collection and (b) administrative costs associated with air passenger duty were in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the efficiency of HM Revenue and Customs in collecting (a) air passenger duty and (b) other taxes. [39694]

**Justine Greening:** For each destination band under air passenger duty (APD), the numbers of chargeable passengers and the revenue declared are published on a monthly basis on HMRC's UK Trade Info website:

<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins>

Data are available up to November 2010.

Forecasting of tax receipts is undertaken by the Office for Budget Responsibility; its latest forecast was in November 2010 and is published at:

<http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook.html>

HMRC does not collect information on the contribution to APD revenues made from flights to specific countries including those in the Caribbean.

No estimate is available for limiting the standard rate of APD to business and first class passengers, as data submitted by airlines for the purposes of APD are not broken down on this basis.

The Government are taking a range of factors into account in exploring changes to the aviation tax system; major changes will be subject to consultation.

The cost of collecting APD, including administrative costs incurred by HMRC, is 0.04 of a penny per pound collected for 2008-09. APD is the cheapest of all HMRC's taxes to collect. The latest costs of collecting all HMRC taxes are contained in Table 1 of HMRC's Departmental Autumn Performance Report 2009, which is available on the HMRC website:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/autumn-report-2009.pdf>

#### Child Benefit: Lone Parents

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many single parent families resident in (a) Coventry, (b) the West Midlands and (c) England he expects to have their annual income reduced as a result of implementation of the proposed changes to child benefit announced in the June 2010 Budget.

[39720]

**Mr Gauke:** It is estimated that around 50,000 single-parent families resident in England will be affected by the proposed changes to child benefit announced in the June 2010 Budget.

Estimates of the number of single-parents affected by the child benefit changes are not robust at regional level.

Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency or local authority level.

#### Civil Servants

**Kate Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which senior civil service staff have left his Department since May 2010; and what contractual or non-contractual payments were made by his Department in each case.

[34537]

**Justine Greening:** The following senior civil service staff have left HM Treasury since May 2010.

John Sweetman  
Andrew Kilpatrick  
Cressy Macdonald  
Lucy Makinson  
Jacky Rees  
Charles Lloyd  
Joanna Crellin  
Darren Philp  
Clive Maxwell  
Ray Shostak  
Simon Ridley  
David Lunn  
Katherine Green  
Louise Tulett  
Robert Woods

Full details of the remuneration paid to members of the Treasury Board, including any payments associated with their departure, are published annually in the Treasury Group Resource Accounts. Protected personal data relating to individual payments made to other staff are not available.

#### Climate Change Levy: Northern Ireland

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department conducted an impact assessment on the replacement of the climate change levy exemption for Northern Ireland.

[39496]

**Justine Greening:** A tax information and impact note was published alongside the draft legislation on the replacement of the climate change levy exemption for Northern Ireland on 31 January and is available on the HMT website.

Copies of the draft legislation and tax information and impact note have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Treasury website at:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/finance\\_bill\\_2011.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/finance_bill_2011.htm)

#### Departmental Manpower

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 589W, on what the administrative arrangements were for the work now carried out by the Devolved Countries Unit prior to that unit's formation in 2008.

[39651]

**Danny Alexander:** Prior to 2008 the Devolved Countries Unit was a branch within a larger team. Currently the Devolved Countries Unit has a deputy director solely responsible for devolution issues in HM Treasury. Prior to 2008 the deputy director responsible for the devolution unit was also responsible for other policy areas, including local government.

#### Financial Services: Education

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the support and advice available for young people and vulnerable groups with financial planning and financial literacy.

[39721]

**Mr Hoban:** The Consumer Financial Education Body, soon to be renamed the Money Advice Service, has statutory objectives to improve understanding of financial matters among the general public and to enhance the ability of members of the public to manage their financial affairs, including among young people and vulnerable groups. CFEB is an independent body which is responsible for measuring the effectiveness of its work.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role his Department plays in promoting financial literacy.

[39722]

**Mr Hoban:** The Treasury is responsible for developing policy on financial capability and financial literacy. Delivery of financial capability and literacy activities is undertaken by the Consumer Financial Education Body



(CFEB), soon to be known as the Money Advice Service, and a number of private and third sector bodies. The Government have asked CFEB to deliver a new national financial advice service and annual financial healthcheck, both of which will be available from the spring and which will contribute to increasing levels of financial literacy.

### Gift Aid

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of tax foregone through the Gift Aid scheme in (a) 2007-08, (b) 2008-09 and (c) 2009-10. [40623]

**Justine Greening:** The Gift Aid scheme results in two types of tax repayments: repayments to charities of tax paid by donors and repayments to donors who are higher rate taxpayers. Data on repayments to charities are published at

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/table10-1.pdf>

and data on higher rate repayments are published at

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/table10-2.pdf>

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the Gift Aid transitional relief scheme for charities. [39488]

**Justine Greening:** The relief was introduced as a temporary measure, to give charities time to prepare their financial plans, in response to a lower rate of relief from Gift Aid. By April, charities will have had four years to prepare for the change. Gift Aid transitional relief will not be extended beyond April 2011. At the spending review the Chancellor announced help to the voluntary sector through the £100 million Transition Fund to support the charities that are most in need.

### Green Investment Bank

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the recording of the liabilities and assets of the proposed Green Investment Bank in the Government's public borrowing statistics. [38520]

**Danny Alexander:** The Government will follow Eurostat's rules, which are set out in the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA 95) and the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt, to account for the assets and the liabilities of the Green Investment Bank.

### Low Pay

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many (a) women and (b) men had earnings that were below the lower earnings limit in (i) 2000, (ii) 1990 and (iii) 1980. [40911]

**Mr Gauke:** Estimates of the total number of employees earning below the lower earnings limit for national insurance contributions are not available through HMRC administrative data sources.

### Manufacturing Industries: West Midlands

**Chris White:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he is taking to promote manufacturing in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [38587]

**Justine Greening:** The June Budget announced reductions in the main rate of corporation tax from 28 to 24% over four years, and of the small profits rate from 21 to 20%. While in part funded by reductions in capital allowances, this package will reduce the annual tax burden on companies by over £2 billion. The manufacturing sector is expected to gain over £250 million annually when the package is fully implemented.

The Government recognise the importance of predictability and stability for all businesses and has recently set out a corporate tax road map to provide business with certainty over its plans for corporate tax reform.

The Government are also undertaking a growth review to examine what each part of government can do to support growth and investment. Advanced manufacturing is one of the sectors being examined as part of this first phase of this review, which will report at Budget 2011.

### Mortgages

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department had with the Financial Services Authority prior to the completion of its consultation on its mortgage market review in respect of the effects of its proposals on (a) compliance with Basel 3, (b) availability of mortgage products, (c) capital adequacy and (d) deposit requirements for first time home buyers; and if he will make a statement. [40515]

**Mr Hoban:** Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with the previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

### Public Expenditure

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the figures underlying Chart 1.3 on page 18 of the Spending Review 2010. [39106]

**Danny Alexander:** The following table presents the figures underlying chart 1.3 on page 18 of 'Spending Review 2010'.

|                                                                                            | 2014-15 | Policy inherited by the Government |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Total cuts (£ billion)                                                                     | 81      | 56                                 |
| 2010-11 efficiency savings                                                                 | 7       | —                                  |
| DEL savings in spending review period (excluding the impact of 2010-11 efficiency savings) | 46      | 48                                 |

|                                | 2014-15 | Policy inherited by the Government |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Budget AME savings             | 11      | —                                  |
| Spending review changes in AME | 7       | —                                  |
| Debt interest savings          | 10      | 7                                  |

Spending reductions are shown against baseline of growing DEL in line with inflation, in line with Table 4.8 in the OBR pre-Budget forecast, and the AME forecast in the Budget.

At the spending review, the Government set an AME margin, which reaches £4 billion by 2014-15. The previous Government always had an AME margin and therefore, to provide a consistent comparison for implied DEL savings, the table is based on the assumption that the previous Government would also have set an AME margin of £4 billion by 2014-15. The cuts implied in 'policy inherited by the Government' are therefore made up of £52 billion (including £44 billion DEL savings) as set out in table 1.1 of the June Budget, plus £4 billion of further DEL savings that we assumed the previous Government would have made to fund the AME margin. This gives a gross figure for policy inherited by the Government of £56 billion. Total cuts by 2014-15, which include both the previous Government's cuts as well as this Government's cuts, as shown in the table 1.3, are £81 billion, which is net of the AME margin.

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to table 1.1 of the June 2010 Budget, what his most recent figures are for consolidation plans over the forecast period to 2014-15. [39107]

**Danny Alexander:** The Government's latest total consolidation plans were set out in Table 1.1 of the June Budget 2010.

The table shows that the Government are undertaking £8.9 billion of consolidation in 2010-11, £41 billion in 2011-12, £66 billion in 2012-13, £90 billion in 2013-14 and £113 billion in 2014-15.

The OBR will publish an updated forecast for the public finances at the 2011 Budget in March which will include the impact of consolidation.

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to page 104 of the June 2010 Budget, footnote 1, what recent advice he has received from the Office for Budget Responsibility on (a) his Department's figures for cyclically-adjusted borrowing between 2006-07 and 2009-10 and (b) the Office's view of the cyclical position of the economy; and if he will make a statement; [39108]

(2) whether the (a) Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) and (b) his Department has revised historic figures for cyclically-adjusted borrowing based on the OBR's assessment of the output gap. [39244]

**Danny Alexander:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

#### Letter from Robert Chote, dated February 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions.

In its forecasts to date, the OBR has estimated the current size of the output gap by drawing on a range of contemporaneous indicators of spare capacity, including information from surveys and ONS data. Estimating the past history of the output gap using this methodology is not straightforward, as different capacity indicators have been available for different periods of time. We hope to publish a paper exploring available methods of doing so later this year.

As regards our most recent assessment of the cyclical position of the economy, in our November Economic and fiscal outlook we estimated that the economy was running about 3¼ per cent below full capacity in the second quarter of 2010.

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the June 2010 Budget, page 104, footnote 1, what his most recent estimate is of (a) cyclically-adjusted net borrowing and (b) cyclically-adjusted surplus on the budget for each year from 1997-98 to 2010-11. [39176]

**Danny Alexander:** In their 'Economic and Fiscal forecast', published on 29 November, the independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecast cyclically-adjusted net borrowing and the cyclically-adjusted surplus on current budget for 2010-11. This is available at:

[http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ\\_fiscal\\_outlook\\_291110.pdf](http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf)

Outturn figures for these cyclically-adjusted aggregates in previous years can be found in the public finances databank on the Treasury website:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf\\_statistics.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm)

The following table shows cyclically adjusted public sector net borrowing and cyclically adjusted surplus on current budget since 1997-98.

|                      | Cyclically adjusted public sector net borrowing | % GDP<br>Cyclically adjusted current budget |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1997-98              | 0.6                                             | -0.1                                        |
| 1998-99              | -0.2                                            | 0.9                                         |
| 1999-2000            | -1.1                                            | 1.7                                         |
| 2000-01              | -1.1                                            | 1.6                                         |
| 2001-02              | 0.2                                             | 0.9                                         |
| 2002-03              | 1.9                                             | -0.6                                        |
| 2003-04              | 2.6                                             | -1.2                                        |
| 2004-05              | 3.1                                             | -1.4                                        |
| 2005-06              | 2.8                                             | -0.9                                        |
| 2006-07              | 2.3                                             | -0.4                                        |
| 2007-08              | 2.6                                             | -0.6                                        |
| 2008-09              | 6.3                                             | -3.1                                        |
| 2009-10 <sup>1</sup> | 8.8                                             | -5.3                                        |
| 2010-11              | 7.6                                             | -4.7                                        |
| 2011-12              | 5.3                                             | -3.3                                        |
| 2012-13              | 3.5                                             | -1.8                                        |
| 2013-14              | 1.9                                             | -0.5                                        |
| 2014-15              | 0.8                                             | 0.5                                         |
| 2015-16              | 0.3                                             | 0.9                                         |

<sup>1</sup> Source:

OBR's November Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

The OBR has not published estimates of the output gap or cyclically adjusted balances prior to 2009. The estimates prior to 2009-10 are based on Treasury estimates of trend output and the output gap from the March Budget.

The OBR has indicated that they expect to publish analysis of the output gap pre 2009 this year which will explore different methodologies for evaluating it.

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of his fiscal consolidation plan will be attributed to the previous administration in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15; and how much is accounted for by (a) spending and (b) tax measures. [39177]

**Danny Alexander:** As set out in table 1.1 of the June Budget, the total consolidation attributed to the previous Government amounts to £0.8 billion in 2010-11, £26 billion in 2011-12, £42 billion in 2012-13, £57 billion in 2013-14 and £73 billion in 2014-15.

Of this, the inherited spending consolidation amounted to £0 billion in 2010-11, £14 billion in 2011-12, £25 billion in 2012-13, £39 billion in 2013-14, £52 billion in 2014-15.

The inherited tax measures amounted to £0.8 billion in 2010-11, £11 billion in 2011-12, £17 billion in 2012-13, £18 billion in 2013-14 and £21 billion in 2014-15.

#### Smuggling: Alcoholic Drinks and Tobacco

**Mr Scott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of alcohol and tobacco products seized by HM Customs and Excise in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [38411]

**Justine Greening:** The combined value of goods and the associated taxes from alcohol and tobacco seized in the UK by HM Revenue and Customs and UK Border Agency in each of the last three years is shown as follows.

|         | Alcohol | £ million<br>Tobacco |
|---------|---------|----------------------|
| 2007-08 | 23.81   | 287.81               |
| 2008-09 | 20.18   | 280.32               |
| 2009-10 | 26.70   | 262.37               |

#### Tax Allowances: Social Services

**Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the introduction of tax concessions for savings schemes solely for the funding of social care; and if he will make a statement. [39732]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government established a commission on the funding of care and support in July 2010, chaired by Andrew Dilnot. The commission is due to report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Health in July 2011. We will consider the commission's recommendations once we receive its report.

#### Taxation: Domicile

**Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many non-domiciled UK taxpayers filed tax returns with HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five tax years; [39455]

(2) how many non-domiciled taxpayers have paid the flat annual charge to the Exchequer since its introduction; [39456]

(3) how much tax non-domiciled taxpayers paid to the Exchequer in each of the last five tax years. [39457]

**Mr Gauke:** The number of individuals who filed a self-assessment (SA) tax return and indicated that they were non-domiciled was as follows:

|         | Number  |
|---------|---------|
| 2004-05 | 110,000 |
| 2005-06 | 111,000 |
| 2006-07 | 117,000 |
| 2007-08 | 140,000 |
| 2008-09 | 123,000 |

2008-09 is the most recent tax year for which data are available.

The figures above include both individuals who were UK resident and individuals who were not UK resident.

Individuals who complete a SA return are only required to indicate that they are non-domiciled if this affects their tax liability. Therefore the actual number of non-domiciled individuals who complete a return will be greater than the number who indicate their non-domicile status on their SA return.

The annual £30,000 remittance basis charge was introduced with effect from the 2008-09 tax year. The number of non-domiciled individuals who paid the charge in 2008-09 was 5,400. This is a provisional figure rounded to the nearest hundred and may be updated once all returns for the tax year have been received and analysed.

Figures are not available for the total amount of UK tax paid by non domiciled individuals. However, it is possible to calculate the total amount of UK income tax and capital gains tax (CGT) paid by individuals who completed an SA return and indicated that they were non-domiciled. These amounts for the past five tax years were as follows:

|         | £ billion |
|---------|-----------|
| 2004-05 | 3.3       |
| 2005-06 | 4.0       |
| 2006-07 | 5.0       |
| 2007-08 | 6.9       |
| 2008-09 | 5.9       |

Several taxes are not accounted for via the SA system and some non-domiciled individuals are not required to complete an SA return at all.

#### VAT: Sandwiches

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is in relation to the liability of fast food outlets to pay value added tax on toasted sandwiches; [40812]



(2) for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs rescinded its decision that toasted sandwiches should be treated in the same way as other sandwiches and not subject to value added tax in December 2005. [40813]

**Mr Gauke:** VAT is payable on a supply of hot food that has been heated for the purposes of enabling it to be consumed at a temperature above the ambient air temperature and it is above that temperature at the time it is provided to the customer. This applies to food sold by any business.

Food served in restaurants and cafes has always been taxable at the standard rate as a supply of catering. In 1984 this was extended to include hot take-away food (including toasted sandwiches) in order to bring it into line with that of restaurant meals.

HMRC has a responsibility to administer VAT law correctly. In 2005, a decision that had been made to an individual taxpayer was withdrawn following a review of all the relevant facts. HMRC's policy on toasted sandwiches has remained unchanged since 1984.

## EDUCATION

### Building Schools for the Future Programme: Private Finance Initiative

**Jesse Norman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent estimate is of the total outstanding liabilities to private finance initiative providers under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [35445]

**Mr Gibb:** We are currently collating information on education PFI unitary charges as part of a wider PFI data collection exercise undertaken by HM Treasury, and we understand that HM Treasury will publish that information as part of the Budget 2011.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 80-1W, on the education maintenance allowance, what the evaluation evidence and other research referred to is. [34251]

**Mr Gibb:** When making the decision to end EMA, we considered all the evidence from the EMA Pilots which includes a number of reports conducted by a consortium led by the Centre for Research into Social Policy (CRSP) and involving the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the National Centre for Social Research. The main reports referred to were: Ashworth, K., Hardman, J., Hartfree, Y., Maguire, S., Middleton, S., Smith, D., Dearden, L., Emmerson, C., Frayne, C., Meghir, C. (2002), 'Education Maintenance Allowance: The First Two Years: A Quantitative Evaluation', Department for Education and Skills Research Report 352; and Chowdry, H., Dearden, L. and Emmerson, C. (2007) 'Education Maintenance Allowance: Evaluation with Administrative Data—The Impact of the EMA pilots on participation and attainment in post-compulsory education', Institute for Fiscal Studies/Learning and Skills Council.

These reports, and other evaluation evidence, are available at:

<http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/evaluation-reports/>

We also considered research into barriers to participation (including financial barriers), which was undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research, working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research: (Spielhofer et al (2010) 'Barriers to Participation in Education and Training: DFE RR009'.

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Ashfield

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will (a) undertake and (b) publish an equality impact assessment in respect of the effects on Ashfield constituency of the abolition of the education maintenance allowance. [33983]

**Mr Gibb:** A full equality impact assessment for the introduction of the discretionary learner support fund replacing the education maintenance allowance (EMA) will be published in due course, once final arrangements for the operation of the new fund have been developed. The Department for Education is undertaking that process in consultation with schools, colleges and other stakeholders, informed by the work that the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) will be doing in his capacity as the Government's Advocate for Access to Education. On publication a copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

### Further Education: Absenteeism

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the level of unauthorised absence was in further education establishments that were (a) sixth forms and (b) colleges in each year since 2004. [39138]

**Mr Gibb [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** Information on pupils with unauthorised absence is not collected for further education establishments. The Department collects information on pupil absence for pupils aged five to 15 at the start of the school year from maintained primary and secondary schools, all special schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Information on absence can be found in Statistical First Release 07/2010 'Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2008/09' at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000918/index.shtml>

### Ofsted: Training

**Paul Uppal:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism he has put in place to (a) train and (b) monitor the performance of Ofsted inspectors. [34770]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 January 2011:*

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted inspections are conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectors who are employed directly by Ofsted, and by additional Inspectors employed by Ofsted's inspection service providers (CfBT, Tribal, Serco and Prospects). The training and performance monitoring of inspectors, including Her Majesty's Inspectors, is the responsibility of Ofsted and its contracted inspection service providers.

#### Training for inspectors

All new inspectors are provided with comprehensive induction, which includes a programme of shadowing inspections. Newly appointed Her Majesty's Inspectors serve a nine month probationary period before their appointment is confirmed. All additional inspectors are authorised as competent to inspect only after direct, first hand observation of their work by experienced Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Following the induction period, all inspectors are provided with high quality training in the areas they inspect, which includes regular sessions on understanding and applying inspection frameworks. In addition, Her Majesty's Inspectors attend specialist training events (up to six days a year) and technical workshops (three days a year). They are also allocated personal development days, which they are required to use to keep abreast of current developments and to help meet the development objectives set out in their personal development plans.

#### Monitoring inspector performance

Her Majesty's Inspectors benefit from a robust system of performance management. Regular reviews of performance draw on direct observation of practice, reviews of the evidence they gather, the scrutiny of inspection reports, and school and other provider responses to post-inspection questionnaires. Together, this evidence contributes to mid and end-of-year performance reviews. As a part of their contractual obligations, similar arrangements apply to the inspection service providers' additional inspectors.

The range of work undertaken by the individual inspection service providers for Ofsted, including the performance of their additional inspectors, is monitored by Ofsted's senior managers at monthly Contract Management Board meetings. The work of all the providers is also scrutinised at quarterly National Programme Board meetings.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

#### Schools: Admissions

**Mr Goddard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the number of surplus places at maintained schools in Birmingham Hall Green constituency in each of the last five years. [33604]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus places in maintained primary and secondary schools (except special schools) via an annual survey. The following tables show the number of surplus places in maintained schools in Birmingham between 2006 and 2010, which are the most recent data available. The numbers of surplus places are reported at local authority level and not broken down by constituency.

*Surplus places in maintained primary schools in Birmingham*

|                   | Surplus places |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 2006 <sup>1</sup> | 8,509          |
| 2007 <sup>1</sup> | 8,649          |
| 2008 <sup>1</sup> | 8,730          |
| 2009 <sup>1</sup> | 8,414          |
| 2010 <sup>2</sup> | 7,875          |

*Surplus places in maintained secondary schools in Birmingham*

|                   | Surplus places |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 2006 <sup>1</sup> | 2,747          |
| 2007 <sup>1</sup> | 3,107          |
| 2008 <sup>1</sup> | 3,543          |
| 2009 <sup>1</sup> | 3,823          |
| 2010 <sup>2</sup> | 2,783          |

<sup>1</sup> Number of places relate to the position as at January

<sup>2</sup> Number of places relate to the position as at May

Source:

Surplus Places Survey & School Capacity Collection

#### Special Educational Needs: Free Schools

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether specific building regulations are to apply to free schools established to cater solely for children with special educational needs. [33589]

**Mr Gibb:** Every special Free School established to cater only for children with special educational needs will be expected to meet fully the particular needs of their student group throughout their premises. Where construction work or refurbishment is required, the Free School must meet the relevant building regulations for which the Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible. The Department for Education is currently examining all the schools-specific premises regulations with a view to reducing burdens on schools.

#### BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

##### Animal Welfare

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to the European Commission to keep the deadline of March 2013 for marketing of new cosmetic products tested on animals. [39655]

**Mr Davey:** Under the terms of the coalition agreement we shall continue to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. However, the European Commission is currently conducting an impact assessment on the effects of the 2013 marketing ban, and it would not be appropriate to pre-judge a UK position when such evidence will be made available.

##### Apprentices

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeship places there were in (a) 1992, (b) 1997, (c) 2005 and (d) 2009. [38062]

**Mr Hayes:** Table 1 shows the number of Apprenticeship starts in England from 2002/03 to 2009/10.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship Programme Starts, 2002/03 to 2009/10*

| Academic year | Apprenticeship starts |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2002/03       | 167,700               |
| 2003/04       | 193,600               |
| 2004/05       | 189,000               |
| 2005/06       | 175,000               |

Table 1: Apprenticeship Programme Starts, 2002/03 to 2009/10

| Academic year | Apprenticeship starts |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2006/07       | 184,400               |
| 2007/08       | 224,800               |
| 2008/09       | 239,900               |
| 2009/10       | 279,700               |

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Prior to 2002/03, information was collected on a different basis, and therefore is not comparable with later years. Table 2 shows Apprenticeship starts from 1996/97 to 2001/02, as reported in historical Statistical Releases. Information is not available for 1992.

Table 2: Apprenticeship Programme Starts, 1996/97 to 2001/02

| Academic year | Apprenticeship starts |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1996/97       | 65,000                |
| 1997/98       | 75,000                |
| 1998/99       | 118,000               |
| 1999/00       | 165,000               |
| 2000/01       | 177,000               |
| 2001/02       | 162,000               |

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011:

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current)

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has set a target for the number of apprenticeship starts it aims to fund in 2019-20. [40182]

**Mr Hayes:** The Apprenticeships Programme is demand led. Government do not set targets for apprenticeships but provide funding and forecast the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand, taking advantage of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system.

The BIS paper 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' confirms our intention, agreed in the spending review that by 2014-15, we will increase annual funding for adult apprenticeships by up to £250 million above the £398 million a year funding inherited from the last Government. So we will have in place sufficient funding for 75,000 more adult apprenticeship places than the previous Government were providing. Funding plans have not been forecast beyond the end of the spending review period.

#### Apprentices: Finance

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether the 100,000 apprenticeship placements announced on 7 February 2011 are additional to the places announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [40350]

(2) how much funding his Department plans to allocate to apprenticeships in 2011-12; [40351]

(3) whether his announcement of £222 million funding for apprenticeships on 7 February 2011 was in addition to the £250 million funding for adult apprenticeships as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [40352]

**Mr Hayes:** The Apprenticeships Programme is demand led. Government do not set targets for apprenticeships but provide funding and forecast the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand, taking advantage of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system.

For 2011-12 financial year, Government's planned expenditure on apprenticeships training is £1,404 million:

£799 million for 16 to 18-year olds;

£605 million for those aged 19 and over<sup>1</sup>.

These figures have been published in the YPLA's 16-19 Funding Statement (November 2010) and my own Department's Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth (December 2010). No new funding or places have been announced since these documents were published, which both reflect the spending review position.

The £222 million additional funding described during Apprenticeships Week is an underestimate. The correct figure is £226 million. This is difference between the total budget for 2011-12, described above, and the previous Government's budget for apprenticeships for 2010-11 financial year, which was £1,178 million<sup>2</sup>. The budget for apprenticeships in the 2010-11 financial year was subsequently increased by this Government by a further £150 million, as announced in May 2010.

This increase of £226 million for 2011-12 is part of the £250 million additional funding announced in the spending review, which we expect to be providing by 2014-15.

<sup>1</sup> 16-18 figures: 16-19 Funding Statement, YPLA (December 2010); 19+ figures: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, BIS (November 2010)

<sup>2</sup> 16-18 figures: DCSF 16-19 Statement of Priorities and Investment Strategy 2010-11; 19+ figures: Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether the £1.4 billion of funding for an increased number of apprenticeship places announced on 7 February 2011 is new funding; [40626]

(2) on which dates Ministers in his Department have made public announcements on (a) the creation of apprenticeship places and (b) funding to be allocated to apprenticeships since May 2010. [40627]

**Mr Hayes:** On 24 May 2010, the Treasury announced an additional £150 million to fund 50,000 additional places in the 2010-11 financial year.

On 20 October 2010, the spending review was published by HM Treasury and announced that

"funding for adult apprenticeships will be increased by £250 million a year by 2014-15, relative to the level inherited from the previous Government".

The spending review position is reflected in more recent documents. The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills published 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' on 16 November 2010. This includes information on funding and learner numbers up to 2012-13 for



apprenticeships for people aged 19 and over. The Young Person's Learning Agency published a '16-19 Funding Statement' on 20 December 2010 which includes information on funding and starts up to 2012/13 for Apprenticeships for 16 to 19-year-olds.

For 2011-12 financial year, Government's indicative forecast of expenditure on apprenticeships training is £1,404 million:

£799 million for 16 to 18-year-olds;

£605 million for those aged 19 and over.

These figures were first announced in the BIS document 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' and the YPLA '16-19 Funding Statement'. This is an increase of £226 million on what the previous Government were providing and is a significant step towards the spending review commitment that runs to 2015.

#### Banks: Loans

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from small businesses in Greater London on access to finance from banks. [39935]

**Mr Prisk:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State meets regularly with national business representative bodies—such as the British Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors, and the Confederation of British Industry. At these meetings, a range of matters are discussed, which include access to bank finance for small businesses.

In addition, the Small Business Economic Forum, chaired by me, meets quarterly. This forum includes representatives from a number of small business representative bodies. The most recent meeting was held on 24 January, and the agenda included items on the progress being made by the British Bankers' Association in implementing their Business Finance Taskforce proposals, and the finance readiness of SMEs.

These representations have had a national focus. BIS data and other research indicate that access to finance is an issue that affects small businesses all across the UK to a broadly equal extent.

#### Conditions of Employment

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the evidential basis is for his decision not to extend the remit of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority to the construction industry; [40592]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to ACAS over the comprehensive spending review period; [40593]

(3) how much funding his Department has allocated to the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate over the comprehensive spending review period; [40594]

(4) what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the 2009 Hampton Implementation Review report on the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate on the powers of that body to address rogue businesses; [40595]

(5) which trade unions have (a) been invited to and (b) attended meetings with officials of his Department as part of the Government's workplace rights compliance and enforcement review; [40596]

(6) which representatives of business and trade associations have (a) been invited to and (b) attended meetings with officials of his Department on the Government's workplace rights compliance and enforcement review; [40597]

(7) which (a) agencies and (b) enforcement bodies are subject to the Government's workplace rights compliance and enforcement review; [40598]

(8) what methodology his Department plans to use to quantify the burden on business from enforcement and licensing bodies as part of its review of workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements; [40599]

(9) what funding his Department has allocated for the National Minimum Wage Helpline over the comprehensive spending review period. [40600]

**Mr Davey:** An extension of gangmaster licensing to the construction or other sectors would impose new inspection and fee burdens on businesses and entail additional costs for Government. It can be an appropriate response to particular problems in particular sectors, but should be considered only when certain conditions have been met. These conditions include: evidence that existing regulation is inadequate; evidence of significant abuses of employment rights; and confidence that a licensing system would be a proportionate and effective way of tackling the problem areas. Any licensing scheme must also be practicable, enforceable and affordable. The Government are not persuaded that these conditions are met for the construction sector.

The workplace rights compliance and enforcement review is concerned primarily with the employment rights and related protections that are enforced by Government bodies and agencies. The relevant bodies and agencies are HM Revenue and Customs (for National Minimum Wage enforcement), the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate (EAS), the Gangmaster Licensing Authority and the Health and Safety Executive (in its capacity as the main enforcement body for the 48 hour average working week and other aspects of the Working Time regulations).

The first phase of the compliance and enforcement review is being carried out internally within Government. Meetings with business and trade associations and trade unions have not yet been arranged.

In carrying out the review BIS will, where necessary, use the Government's standard impact assessment methodology in quantifying burdens on businesses arising from the activity of enforcement and licensing bodies.

Information about impact assessment methodology is set out in documents published by the Better Regulation Executive, including: "Impact Assessment Guidance" and the "Impact Assessment (IA) Toolkit" available from:

[www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk)

The EAS has implemented the recommendations in the Hampton Implementation Review report, including the development of a risk-based process for determining inspection priorities. The compliance and enforcement review will examine whether the current powers and

penalties available to the EAS and the other enforcement bodies are fit for purpose, and whether they need to be strengthened or modified.

BIS has allocated ACAS £47.839 million for 2011-12. Allocations for the remaining three years of the comprehensive spending review period have not yet been determined. The EAS is funded from BIS's administration budget. Allocations have not yet been made for the spending review period.

Telephone inquiries about the National Minimum Wage and complaints of abuse are handled by the Pay and Work Rights line which provides a single point of contact for queries about all the government-enforced workplace rights. BIS has allocated funding of £0.9 million for the helpline for 2011-12. Allocations for the remaining three years of the spending review period have not yet been determined.

#### Consumers: Advisory Services

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 716-17W, on consumers: advisory services, what progress has been made to date in his Department's discussions with the consumer organisation Which? about making wider use of its online information; and when he expects the discussions to conclude. [39918]

**Mr Davey:** This Department has helped to facilitate discussions between Which?, who remain committed to making their free online information more widely available, Citizens Advice, The Office of Fair Trading and Direct.gov. They have agreed in principle to work together but there are numerous operational issues to be resolved and it is too early to say when these discussions will conclude.

#### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36604]

**Mr Davey:** The Department is fully committed to meeting the 10% carbon reduction target by May 2011. Initiatives that have taken place include the installation of voltage reduction equipment in its main headquarters building, 1 Victoria street, removal of surplus point of use water heaters in toilet blocks and installation of timers on lifts so they can be shut off out of hours.

The Department is reducing the size of its estate in Central London and staff will be co-located into 1 Victoria street by the end of March, allowing us to mothball buildings.

A temperature deadband that is operating between 20-24 degrees is contributing towards savings and engineers are continuing to monitor plant operating times to see where these can be limited to bring about savings while maintaining comfortable working conditions for staff. The Department operated a partial shutdown of its 1 Victoria street building during Christmas week with heating only provided to the 'spur' of the building.

Energy saving behaviours by staff are being encouraged through intranet articles, posters and environmental awareness days.

The Department's executive agencies are also all fully committed to the 10% reduction target and are implementing initiatives covering heating and ventilation plant, ICT and behavioural change.

#### Export Credit Guarantees: Democratic Republic of Congo

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) owed debt to the ECGD prior to the cancellation of debt in 2010. [39882]

**Mr Davey [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The debt owed to ECGD by the Democratic Republic of Congo that was recently cancelled related to some 30 export transactions, all of which took place before 30 June 1983. Details of the goods or services supplied under the individual contracts are no longer held.

#### Exports: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on steps to encouraging exports; and if he will make a statement. [40242]

**Mr Prisk:** The Secretary of State has met his Scottish counterparts to discuss a wide range of issues, including support for business.

As the hon. Lady knows, trade and investment are devolved matters. However, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), as the Government's lead provider of international trade and investment support to businesses, provides information, advice and guidance to businesses of all types and sizes about trading internationally and investing in the UK. UKTI maintains strong links with Scottish Development International (SDI), the trade and investment arm of the Scottish Government. Companies in Scotland can access the majority of UKTI's services as well as those provided by SDI, including access to UKTI's overseas network of offices.

Recently UKTI gave evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee—Supporting Scotland's Economy, which set out in detail the relationship between the two organisations and how we are working together to support businesses, including exporters, in Scotland. The transcript of the oral evidence can be found at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmselect/c657-ic65701.htm>

The Government's Trade and Investment White Paper published on 9 February highlights the Government's aim to promote growth in all parts of the UK and their commitment to continue to work closely with all the devolved Administrations, particularly on support for exporters, to build on the benefits of devolution. The White Paper also confirms that UKTI will launch its new strategy later in 2011 which will set out the practical help and support British exporters and investors will receive from the Government.

### Graduates: Finance

**David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to increase the provision of funding and loans available to postgraduate students. [40149]

**Mr Willetts:** Lord Browne found that the postgraduate system works well as it is. We will, as Lord Browne suggested, monitor participation in postgraduate study to identify whether changes to the undergraduate funding and finance system have any effect on entry to postgraduate courses.

The Government provide funding to students studying for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education through the student loans system, and to other postgraduates through the Professional and Career Development Loan programme. The Government currently have no plans to change this provision.

### Graduates: Loans

**David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for postgraduate loans his Department received in 2010; and what proportion of these were refused. [40150]

**Mr Willetts:** The Government provide funding to students studying for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education through the student loans system, and to other postgraduates through the Professional and Career Development Loan (PCDLs) programme.

In the 2009-10 financial year, three-quarters, over 6,000, of PCDLs were for postgraduate study. The number of refused PCDL applications is not available, as the PCDL-lending banks do not record the intended study profile of unsuccessful applicants.

For the academic year 2010/11, a total of 22,650 loan applications were received from students intending to study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, of these, 100 applicants (0.4%) were not eligible for a loan.

### Green Investment Bank

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 620W, on the Green Investment Bank, whether he has set a target amount of the overall proceeds from asset sales which will complement departmental funding for the Green Investment Bank. [39329]

**Mr Prisk:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 386W.

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Green Investment Bank will lend to (a) carbon capture and storage projects and (b) clean coal projects. [40647]

**Mr Prisk:** We are looking to build a Green Investment Bank (GIB) with a wide remit, which is able to tackle financing issues affecting the deployment of green infrastructure.

Carbon capture and storage, and clean coal will play an important part in our future energy mix, and the Government are providing funding to demonstrate these technologies. In due course, when these technologies are more mature, it is possible that the GIB could help to finance their deployment.

We will make a detailed announcement in May.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to enable the Green Investment Bank to take equity in technology development companies. [40698]

**Mr Prisk:** The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will tackle financing issues affecting green infrastructure. There are currently no plans for it to provide venture capital. The Government already support the development of new technology based businesses through a range of early stage venture capital funds, for example the Enterprise Capital Fund.

We are, however, looking to build a GIB capable of targeting the UK's infrastructure challenges for the long term. Evidence suggests an early GIB priority could be financing for the low carbon power sector (given our 2020 targets). We might then look to grow the GIB into other areas as further evidence and funding becomes available.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish details of the National Scholarship Scheme. [40145]

**Mr Willetts:** Broad details were announced on Thursday 10 February and the information has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he gave to bursaries as an alternative to tuition fee remission as a means of enabling British students from low income backgrounds to attend university as part of the National Scholarship Scheme. [40147]

**Mr Willetts:** Research commissioned by the Office for Fair Access<sup>1</sup> last year found that the introduction of bursaries had not influenced the choice of university for disadvantaged young people. We have therefore placed a £1,000 limit on the amount that can be awarded by way of a cash scholarship or bursary under the National Scholarship Programme (NSP). This will be combined with other assistance to ensure that students receive at least the £3,000 minimum value of an award. Broad details about the NSP were placed in the Libraries of the House on Thursday 10 February.

<sup>1</sup> Have bursaries influenced choices between institutions? Office for Fair Access, 2010.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of teaching grants to universities accounted for under the annually managed expenditure of his Department and its predecessors was in (a) 2005-06, (b) 2006-07, (c) 2007-08, (d) 2008-09 and (e) 2009-10. [38832]



**Mr Willetts:** Teaching grants to universities are not accounted for as Annually Managed Expenditure, but instead form part of the departmental expenditure limit (DEL).

The DEL budgets allocated (via the Higher Education Funding Council for England) for teaching grants to universities were:

|         | £ million |
|---------|-----------|
| 2005-06 | 4,339     |
| 2006-07 | 4,567     |
| 2007-08 | 4,766     |
| 2008-09 | 4,920     |
| 2009-10 | 5,076     |

Further details can be found in the relevant HEFCE grant letters.

### Innovation

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential benefits to the economy of innovation vouchers. [40738]

**Mr Willetts:** Innovation vouchers are a pilot business support product that has been trialled by the regional development agencies (RDAs) as a means to support collaboration between small businesses and knowledge

base institutions. The vouchers have been piloted in different forms across the regions to help assess their effectiveness for business.

The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) is currently looking at the evaluations of the different regional schemes to consider if a similar scheme could be introduced in England over future years.

The TSB is also working with businesses and partners, including the RDAs, to develop its new strategic plan which will be published over the spring. This strategy will provide further information on the range of business support products and programmes that the TSB will support from this April to help incentivise future business and technology-based innovation.

### Money Lenders: Crime

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 828-29W, on money lenders: crime, how much money was allocated to each specialist regional team to tackle the problem of unscrupulous lenders in each year since 2004; and what plans he has for funding for such teams in the period to 2014-15. [39920]

**Mr Davey:** The allocations of funding per team since 2004 are illustrated in the following table:

On 29 December 2010, the Government announced further funding of £5.2 million to continue the fight against illegal money lenders in 2011/12. Funding for future years, beyond 2011/12, will be considered at a later stage.

Allocation of funding per team since 2004

| Region                                                                                       | September 2004 to March 2007 | Funding (£) |           |           |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                                                                              |                              | 2007/08     | 2008/09   | 2009/10   | 2010/11   |
| Scotland                                                                                     | Pilot team                   | 463,000     | 461,995   | 475,250   | 475,250   |
| Wales                                                                                        | —                            | 489,000     | 585,000   | 625,312   | 625,312   |
| South-West                                                                                   | —                            | 442,600     | 570,284   | 587,372   | 587,372   |
| North-East                                                                                   | —                            | 341,094     | 391,571   | 450,000   | 450,000   |
| East midlands                                                                                | —                            | 437,734     | 476,208   | 490,494   | 490,494   |
| London                                                                                       | —                            | 448,064     | 635,000   | 655,000   | 655,000   |
| West midlands including Yorkshire and Humberside, north-west, south-east and East of England | Pilot team                   | 858,000     | 1,850,000 | 1,905,500 | 1,905,500 |
| Total                                                                                        | £3.6 million in total        | 3,479,492   | 4,970,058 | 5,188,928 | 5,188,928 |

### Overseas Students

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from each non-EU country were enrolled on undergraduate courses in each of the last five years. [40891]

**Mr Willetts:** The numbers of non-EU undergraduate enrolments at UK higher education institutions are shown by country of domicile for the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10. The tables will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

### Part-time Education: Admissions

**Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his guidance to the Office for Fair Access will cover the status of part-time students from 2012. [39885]

**Mr Willetts:** Yes. The guidance letter to the Director of Fair Access, published on 10 February, says that, subject to parliamentary approval, the Government intend to bring part-time courses within the scope of the Higher Education Act 2004. This will mean that any institution wishing to charge above the basic level for such courses, as defined, will first need the approval of the Director of Fair Access through an Access Agreement.

### Renewable Energy: Export Credit Guarantees

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects have been supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department through the £50 million credit line for exports of renewable energy to developing countries established in 2003. [39881]

**Mr Davey [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** ECGD has recently issued guarantees with an aggregate value of £31 million in support of two renewable energy projects. One involves converting waste to energy and the other relates to the production of compressed natural gas from gas that would otherwise be flared.

Support for exports of renewable energy goods or services to developing countries is available as part of ECGD's credit risk global capacity, subject to its standard risk criteria. The total capacity available from ECGD to support all eligible exports, including renewable energy goods and services, is substantial and far exceeds £50 million.

### Students: Fees and Charges

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average debt attributable to fees incurred by students for qualifications in (a) medicine, (b) veterinary sciences, (c) architecture and (d) dentistry in each of the last five years; and if he will estimate the average such debt in each of the next 10 years. [40382]

**Mr Willetts:** Statistics on the average size of tuition fee loans taken out by full-time undergraduate higher education students are published by the Student Loans Company in 'Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2010/11', which is accessible at:

<http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcfr072010.pdf>

Latest figures showed that, on average, students took out Tuition Fee Loans worth £2,980 in academic year 2009/10. Provisional figures for 2010/11 show that, on average, students were awarded Tuition Fee Loans worth £3,110; the equivalent provisional figure in 2009/10 was £3,020. Consistent information is not available by subject.

Estimates for the next 10 years are not available.

### Students: Finance

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the (a) monetary value and (b) proportion of irrecoverable student loans accounted for under the annually managed expenditure of his Department and its predecessors in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08, (iv) 2008-09 and (v) 2009-10. [38833]

**Mr Willetts:** The Department values student loans based on the future expected repayments of the loans. This valuation (which includes an estimate and further explanation of how the loan is valued and the amount that is irrecoverable) is updated every year and published in the Resource Accounts of the Department (and its predecessors).

The 2005-06 and 2006-07 Resource Accounts for the Department for Education and Skills can currently be found here:

<http://dfe.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentsinformation/reports/a00390/annual-departmental-reports-accounts-and-spending-reviews>

The 2007-08 Resource Accounts for the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (HC864) can be found here:

[http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedDI/ec\\_group/77-08-C\\_on](http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedDI/ec_group/77-08-C_on)

The 2008-09 Resource Accounts for the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (HC457) can be found here:

[http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedDI/publications/R/Resource\\_accounts\\_08\\_09](http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedDI/publications/R/Resource_accounts_08_09)

The 2009-10 Resource Accounts for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (HC 211) can be found here:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/b/10-pl02-bis-resource-accounts-2009-10.pdf>

The Department is currently reviewing options to monetise the loan book but at present no alternative valuations are used.

### Students: Loans

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 600W, on overseas students: EU nationals, what estimate the Student Loans Company has made of the number of former students about whom it no longer holds accurate information on locations and earnings; and if he will make a statement; [38556]

(2) how many former students have moved overseas and not notified the Student Loans Company in each of the last three years; what the total monetary value of outstanding loans was for such students in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [38557]

**Mr Willetts [holding answer 4 February 2011]:** It is not possible for the Student Loans Company (SLC) to estimate the number of former students who have moved abroad and not notified the company. The SLC cannot therefore provide the monetary value of outstanding loans for such students.

### Technology Strategy Board

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to assess the (a) activities and (b) performance of the Technology Strategy Board at local level. [40734]

**Mr Willetts:** The mechanisms the Technology Strategy Board uses to deliver support, such as Collaborative R and D, Knowledge Transfer Networks and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, are evaluated on a regular basis (usually every two years) as part of the evaluation of the products which come under the Support for Business portfolio to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of business and deliver successful results.

Additionally, the Technology Strategy Board undertakes separate in-depth evaluations of each of its Support for Business products—a review of Knowledge Transfer

Partnerships was completed in 2010, a review of Knowledge Transfer Networks was completed in 2008, and an evaluation of the Collaborative R and D scheme is currently under way.

The Technology Strategy Board also undertakes post project evaluation at one year and five years after the end of the project, particularly to understand the economic impact.

It is also currently undertaking work to further develop a framework to continue to develop and refine its metrics and impact measures to be able to understand at a more detailed level the impact of its activities.

The Technology Strategy Board will be the subject of a formal five-yearly review in 2012 which will assess its performance among other issues.

#### UK Trade & Investment: Contracts

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts to carry out work for UK Trade & Investment were put out to tender in each of the last five years; and what the value of such contracts was. [39698]

**Mr Davey:** UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is a joint department of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Its people are deployed in 160 locations across 96 different countries, nine English regions, London and Glasgow.

From 1 April 2010 UKTI has maintained a consolidated register of contracts. For 2010-11 UKTI let 108 contracts to the value of £32.4 million. For periods prior to this, information is not available; to obtain it would require surveying each post/location, and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

#### UK Trade & Investment: Exports

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of (a) export and (b) import contracts in each region of the UK arising from work carried out by UK Trade & Investment in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [39697]

**Mr Prisk:** Through its Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey (PIMS)—an independently administered survey of some 4,000 companies per annum out of some 24,000 clients that have received services over a 12-month period—UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) tracks the value of financial benefits attributed by British businesses in participation in all of its trade services, measured in terms of additional profit.

The following table sets out an estimate of the value of exports arising from UKTI over the last four years:

|                                                                               | 2009-10 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2007-06 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Average £ benefits                                                            | 222,000 | 175,000 | 139,000 | 115,000 |
| Total additional profit for UK business reported annually by UKTI (£ billion) | 5.2     | 3.6     | 3.0     | 2.5     |
| Estimated total export sales (£ billion)                                      | 35      | 25      | 20      | 17.5    |

|                                                            | 2009-10 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2007-06 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Defence export sales reported annually by UKTI (£ billion) | 7.0     | 4.0     | 10      | n/a     |
| Estimated total value of exports (£ billion)               | 42      | 29      | 30      | 17.5    |

Financial benefits are not calculated regionally. However a breakdown of qualitative benefits to business productivity and competitiveness reported by clients of the International Trade Advisers in the English regions are available and all results are published on the UKTI website at:

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/aboutukti/ourperformance/performanceimpactandmonitoringsurvey.html>

UKTI does not offer services to those businesses that are looking for assistance to source or import goods from overseas. Although business internationalisation can include importing and sourcing overseas, UKTI can deliver the greatest taxpayer value by focusing its resources on helping UK companies overcome barriers to selling into new markets and begin exporting.

#### UK Trade & Investment: Location

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the location is of each office of UK Trade & Investment; and how many staff are employed in each office; [39695]

(2) how many salaried staff are employed by UK Trade & Investment; and in which locations such staff are employed. [39696]

**Mr Davey:** UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is not an employer in its own right; for the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments—the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). UKTI also draws on the expertise of the private sector.

The details of our people and their locations are set out in UK Trade & Investment's Resource Accounts 2009-10 (HC3)—at Annexes L and M, pages 109-110:

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/item/114708.html>

#### UK Trade & Investment: Manpower

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many consultants are employed by UK Trade & Investment; and in which locations such consultants are employed. [39699]

**Mr Davey:** UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is not an employer in its own right; for the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent departments—the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

In the last year UKTI incurred costs of £215,000 covering nine contracts relating to the provision of strategic advice on Information Communications Technology, the Global Entrepreneurs Programme, High Growth Markets and New Industry New Jobs (now Britain Open for Business). All of these were delivered in London.



### Universities: Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent meetings he has had with the Board of Deputies of British Jews about (a) levels of and (b) the Government's response to anti-Semitism on university campuses; what matters were discussed; and if he will make a statement; [39612]

(2) if he will take steps to require universities to report on the steps they have taken to (a) prevent anti-Semitism, (b) protect Jewish students attending the university from anti-Semitism and (c) prevent speakers with a known history of (i) anti-Semitism and (ii) Islamic extremism from speaking at the university; and if he will make a statement; [39734]

(3) for what reasons his Department has made no representations to higher education authorities about invitations to speakers with a history of promoting anti-Semitism on campus; and if he will make a statement. [39737]

**Mr Willetts:** I have not met the Board of Deputies of British Jews. However, I accepted an invitation from the hon. Member for Bassetlaw to meet him and a range of Jewish community organisations, in October last year, to discuss the treatment of Jewish students in higher education. The organisations concerned were the Community Security Trust and the Union of Jewish Students and the meeting also involved Universities UK and the Equality Challenge Unit.

There is no place for racism of any form, such as anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Universities also hold the responsibility to communicate with their students and staff about what steps they take to tackle intolerance and anti-Semitism.

Decisions about external speakers must rest with universities themselves. In this area universities are bound by the law both in protecting freedom of speech on campus, even if that free expression is controversial, and protecting students and staff against harassment or violence. Universities have access to guidance from both Government and the sector itself on promoting good campus relations, which draw out the considerations institutions need to give to free expression on campus and to addressing illegal behaviour. Institutions also take advice about external speakers from their local police forces when needed.

### Vocational Guidance

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by what means he plans to monitor the quality of advice given by the all-age careers service. [39553]

**Mr Hayes:** We will require all contractors delivering the all-age careers service to meet a predefined quality standard such as the matrix standard, which is used for the Next Step adult careers service. We will also monitor the quality of advice through a range of actions including independent and rigorous inspection by Ofsted, reporting

of performance against contractual requirements and regular customer satisfaction surveys conducted at national and regional levels.

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the financial savings to his Department arising from the establishment of an all-age careers advice service. [39593]

**Mr Hayes:** We are working through the detail of the spending review settlement, and will confirm the level of funding for the all-age service as soon as possible. It will be important that we make efficient and innovative use of the funding that is available to achieve the best possible value for money.

## JUSTICE

### Appeals

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals there have been against convictions for offences relating to terrorism since 1 January 2001; and how many such appeals were successful. [38119]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office does not hold data on the number of appeals there have been against convictions for offences relating to terrorism since January 2001. However, the Home Office does publish data on appeals from 2007-08 to 2009-10 which include both appeals against conviction and sentence. This information is contained in the following table which the Home Office publishes annually as part of the Statistical Bulletin "Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches". The link to the latest edition of the publication is:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1810.pdf>

*Appeals and outcomes for terrorism convictions against court conviction or sentences, 2007-08 to 2009-10*

| Outcome of appeal   | Number | Percentage |
|---------------------|--------|------------|
| Sentence varied:    | 24     | 47         |
| Of which:           |        |            |
| Sentence reduced    | 20     | 39         |
| Sentence increased  | 4      | 8          |
| Conviction quashed  | 7      | 14         |
| Appeal not accepted | 20     | 39         |
| Total               | 51     | 100        |

### Assisted Prison Visits Unit: Mental Health

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to extend the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme to include patients held under mental health legislation. [39590]

**Mr Blunt:** There are no plans to extend the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme to cover patients held under the Mental Health Act. In these circumstances, these individuals are NHS patients.

### Bribery

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to implement those provisions of the Bribery Act 2010 which have not yet been brought into force. [36962]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Government are committed to the implementation of the Bribery Act. I am determined to ensure that it is implemented in a way which tackles bribery but does not impose unnecessary cost and uncertainty on legitimate business and trade. I am therefore working on the statutory guidance required to make that guidance practical and useful for legitimate business and trade. It will be published once I am confident that it addresses the legitimate concerns of all those who took part in the consultation process. This will be followed by a three-month notice period before full implementation of the Act.

**Mr Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which bodies his Department consulted in drawing up guidance on the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. [40152]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The public consultation on the guidance about commercial organisations preventing bribery, which required written responses in November last year, produced substantial and helpful replies from business, anti-bribery organisations and other interested parties. We are considering carefully all the representations we have received. Subject to considering any particular requests for confidentiality, we intend to publish the written responses.

**Mr Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he received from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. [40153]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development wrote to me on 27 January on matters including his support for the implementation of the Bribery Act. I spoke to him on 3 February to update him on our plans for the implementation of the Act.

### Convictions: Sentencing

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were convicted for offences under section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 for putting people in fear of violence and were (a) fined, (b) given a custodial sentence and (c) fined and received a custodial sentence in each year since 1998; [39645]

(2) how many people received a summary conviction under section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 for putting people in fear of violence and were subsequently sentenced to (a) a term of imprisonment, (b) a fine and (c) both a term of imprisonment and a fine in each year since 1998. [39670]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts and the number of persons issued with a fine, given a custodial sentence or given a custodial sentence and issued with a fine, under section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2009 (latest available) is shown in table 1 as follows.

The number of persons who were convicted at magistrates courts, and the number of persons issued with a fine, given a custodial sentence, or given a custodial sentence and issued with a fine, under section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2009 (latest available) is shown in table 2 as follows.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Table 1: Number of persons found guilty at all courts and the number of persons issued with a fine, given a custodial sentence or given a custodial sentence and issued with a fine, under section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 England and Wales 1998 to 2009<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

| Offence description                       | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 <sup>4</sup> | 2009 |
|-------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| Putting people in fear of violence        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                   |      |
| Found guilty                              | 522  | 513  | 574  | 590  | 639  | 674  | 717  | 806  | 875  | 814  | 839               | 786  |
| Sentenced <sup>5</sup>                    | 514  | 519  | 580  | 594  | 635  | 674  | 725  | 805  | 876  | 818  | 820               | 779  |
| Of which:                                 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                   |      |
| Fine                                      | 66   | 83   | 51   | 57   | 52   | 48   | 38   | 35   | 32   | 19   | 21                | 15   |
| Immediate custody                         | 121  | 122  | 169  | 157  | 182  | 126  | 134  | 157  | 160  | 140  | 170               | 170  |
| Immediate custody and a fine <sup>6</sup> | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0                 | 0    |

Table 1: Number of persons found guilty at all courts and the number of persons issued with a fine, given a custodial sentence or given a custodial sentence and issued with a fine, under section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 England and Wales 1998 to 2009<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

| Offence description          | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 <sup>4</sup> | 2009 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| Other sentences <sup>7</sup> | 327  | 314  | 359  | 379  | 401  | 500  | 553  | 613  | 684  | 659  | 629               | 594  |

<sup>1</sup> The following statutes were used for the corresponding offence:

Putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4

Racially aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (4)

Religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (3)

Racially or religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (3)

<sup>2</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>3</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

<sup>5</sup> The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

<sup>6</sup> Where immediate custody was the principal disposal and the fine was a secondary disposal.

<sup>7</sup> Includes: Absolute/conditional discharge, Community Sentence, Suspended Sentence and Otherwise dealt with.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of persons who were convicted at magistrates courts, and the number of persons issued with a fine, given a custodial sentence, or given a custodial sentence and issued with a fine, under section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

| Offence description                       | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 <sup>4</sup> | 2009 |
|-------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| Putting people in fear of violence        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                   |      |
| Found guilty                              | 420  | 399  | 405  | 403  | 403  | 388  | 399  | 511  | 553  | 469  | 492               | 520  |
| Sentenced                                 | 389  | 373  | 381  | 378  | 370  | 363  | 372  | 462  | 485  | 406  | 423               | 439  |
| Of which:                                 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                   |      |
| Fine                                      | 64   | 77   | 47   | 51   | 48   | 43   | 35   | 31   | 28   | 17   | 19                | 14   |
| Immediate custody                         | 58   | 55   | 74   | 55   | 72   | 70   | 68   | 94   | 97   | 76   | 77                | 101  |
| Immediate custody and a fine <sup>5</sup> | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0                 | 0    |
| Other sentences <sup>6</sup>              | 267  | 241  | 259  | 271  | 250  | 250  | 269  | 337  | 360  | 313  | 327               | 324  |

<sup>1</sup> The following statutes were used for the corresponding offence:

Putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4

Racially aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (4)

Religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (3)

Racially or religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (3)

<sup>2</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>3</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Where immediate custody was the principal disposal and the fine was a secondary disposal.

<sup>6</sup> Includes: Absolute/conditional discharge, Community Sentence, Suspended Sentence and Otherwise dealt with.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

### Corruption

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the decision to delay the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. [39674]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I spoke to the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on 3 February to update him on the Government's plans for implementation of the Bribery Act.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the likely



costs to businesses of implementing the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010. [39470]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** An impact assessment was published by the then Secretary of State for Justice in 2009 for the introduction of the Bribery Bill. We have obtained further representations on the subject in the course of the consultation process.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the proposal to delay the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 was discussed in Cabinet before the decision was announced on 31 January 2011; [39478]

(2) what discussions he has had with (a) the Prime Minister; (b) the Chancellor of the Exchequer and (c) the Secretary of State for International Development over the decision to delay the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; and whether any representatives of a private sector organisation were party to such discussions; [39676]

(3) what (a) discussions and (b) correspondence he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on his decision to delay implementation of the Bribery Act 2010; and if he will publish each item of written correspondence. [39677]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** It is not the constitutional practice to disclose details of ministerial discussions.

#### Corruption: Business

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals on corruption in (a) international and (b) domestic business. [39671]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** No, I have no such plans. The Government are committed to the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010.

#### Corruption: Legislation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of UK anti-corruption legislation; and what information his Department holds on corruption legislation in international trading partner countries for benchmarking purposes. [39675]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Government are committed to the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010, which reforms the existing offences of bribery under common law and the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1889-1916. We do not hold information for benchmarking purposes on corruption legislation in international trading partners, but the UK is a party to the Council of Europe Criminal

Law Convention on Corruption, the OECD Convention against Foreign Bribery and the United Nations Convention against Corruption and participates in their evaluation mechanisms.

#### Departmental Energy

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to extend the use of real time energy display to buildings occupied by his Department beyond its headquarters. [39632]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice has already extended real time energy display online to two of its London buildings: Clive House and Steel House in addition to its headquarters. The National Archives at Kew also has its real time energy display online.

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Department has saved in (a) energy costs and (b) carbon dioxide emissions since bringing in real time energy display. [39633]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice has saved £140,673 in energy costs and 761.55 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions since bringing in real time energy display in addition to a range of other initiatives designed to save energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the office estate. These are published on the internet and can be seen at:

<http://data.gov.uk/departamental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date>

in the attachment titled: "10 percent reduction pack for online publication Dec update - pub Feb v1.pdf" on page 15.

#### Employment Tribunals

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of successful applicants at employment tribunals were (a) represented and (b) unrepresented in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [40416]

**Mr Djanogly:** The latest 12-month period for which figures are available is the 2009-10 financial year. Table 1 sets out the proportion of successful claims by reference to representation of the claimant. Table 2 sets out a more detailed breakdown of the cases involved.

Table 1: Proportion of claimants with successful claims who were represented/unrepresented in financial year 2009-10

|               | Percentage |
|---------------|------------|
| Represented   | 44         |
| Unrepresented | 56         |

Source:

Employment Tribunal Central Database December 2010

Table 2: Claims where claimants were successful at hearing during the 2009-10 financial year by reference to the representation of claimants

| 2009-10                        | Successful at hearing | Successful default judgment | Total successful |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Total represented <sup>1</sup> | 14,200                | 5,100                       | 19,300           |
| Solicitor                      | 8,800                 | 2,400                       | 11,200           |
| Citizens Advice Bureau         | 960                   | 720                         | 1,700            |
| Private Individual             | 510                   | 200                         | 720              |
| Union                          | 350                   | 140                         | 500              |
| Law Centre                     | 590                   | 470                         | 1,100            |
| Trade Association              | 2                     | 2                           | 5                |
| Free Representation Unit       | 100                   | 30                          | 130              |

Table 2: Claims where claimants were successful at hearing during the 2009-10 financial year by reference to the representation of claimants

| 2009-10             | Successful at hearing | Successful default judgment | Total successful |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Other               | 2,900                 | 1,100                       | 4,000            |
| Total Unrepresented | 14,300 <sup>2</sup>   | 10,400                      | 24,800           |

<sup>1</sup> Represented: Trade Union, Trade Association, Solicitor, Citizens Advice Bureau, Free Representation Unit, Private individual, Law Centre and Other.

<sup>2</sup> Small value, less than 5

Note:

Rounding: Figures in tables are rounded independently and thus may not add to totals. The following conventions have been used:

Values less than 100 rounded to nearest five;

Values from 100 to 999 are rounded to nearest 10; and

Values of 1,000 and over are rounded to nearest 100.

Source:

Employment Tribunal Central Database December 2010

### Employment Tribunals: Witnesses

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the mean number of witnesses asked to attend an employment tribunal hearing was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [40410]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service does not hold this information.

### Human Trafficking

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the support available for trafficked persons in the South West. [40133]

**Mr Blunt:** There has been no recent assessment of support services for victims of human trafficking specifically located in the south-west. Adults trafficked in England and Wales can access specialist support and accommodation through the National Referral Mechanism, a multi-agency framework for identifying victims of trafficking and referring them to support services.

The Government fund support for adult victims through a national model and Government-funded support providers accept referrals for support from anywhere within England and Wales. Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of child trafficking victims falls within the designated responsibilities of local authorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children under the provisions of the 1989 and 2004 Children Acts.

### Human Trafficking: Finance

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has provided for the accommodation of adult victims of human trafficking in 2010-11 to date. [40565]

**Mr Blunt:** Over the course of the financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Justice has provided a total of £950,000 to voluntary-sector organisations to accommodate and support adult victims of human trafficking.

Grant funding of £900,000 was paid to Eaves Housing for Women to provide accommodation and outreach support to adult women trafficked for sexual exploitation or domestic servitude. In addition to accommodation for victims, this grant has been used to fund the coordination of service provision, the salaries of support workers and other ancillary services.

The Ministry of Justice also awarded a grant of £50,000 to Migrant Helpline to support adult female victims of human trafficking who have suffered sexual exploitation. This grant funding was limited to direct support provision only.

### Immigration and Asylum: Appeals

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average waiting time was for appeals to the Immigration and Asylum Chamber from receipt of the application to promulgation in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the equivalent figure was in each of the last two years; [39772]

(2) what plans his Department has to reduce the average period elapsing between an application for and a hearing in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber. [39773]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following table provides the average waiting time between receipt of appeal at the tribunal and promulgation of the decision. These data are provided for each of the four main categories of appeal dealt with by the First Tier of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber (IAC).

|                         | Average calendar weeks from receipt at IAC to promulgation |                          |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|                         | April 2008 to March 2009                                   | April 2009 to March 2010 | April 2010 to September 2010 |
| Asylum                  | 7.7                                                        | 8.1                      | 8.4                          |
| Entry Clearance Officer | 26.9                                                       | 31.8                     | 29.7                         |
| Managed Migration       | 8.9                                                        | 11.2                     | 16.5                         |
| Visit Visa              | 23.9                                                       | 24.8                     | 23.8                         |

Note:

Data exclude Deport Appeals and HR/DC/RD cases.

Source:

SMR-09: 2008-09 (extracted 8 February 2011), 2009-10 (30 December 2010), 2010-11 (3 February 2011).

The tribunal received an unexpectedly high volume of managed migration appeals during 2009-10 and this has had a significant impact on waiting times in most appeal categories over the last 18 months. This surge of work has now been cleared and waiting times are beginning to improve. We expect this to be evident when we publish our Quarter 3 statistics at the end of March. I will ensure that a copy of those statistics is sent to the hon. Member.

We are working closely with the United Kingdom Border Agency to improve workflow communications between Departments to speed up the overall process, including exploring increased use of technology to modernise the system. We are looking specifically at how we might further speed up the system, including avoiding unnecessary postponements and adjournments, and to minimise abuse of the system. Finally, we are working together to improve the forecasting of appeal volumes to ensure that the end to end system is better able to manage peaks of work and their impact on waiting times.

#### Immigration: Bail

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were subject to immigration bail conditions in the latest period for which figures are available. [39747]

**Mr Djanogly:** For the period 1 April to 30 September 2010 the Immigration and Asylum Chamber processed 5,374 bail applications; of these, 1,001 were granted.

#### National Offender Management Service

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the aims and objectives are of the prison industries department of the National Offender Management Service. [39853]

**Mr Blunt:** The Prison Industries unit within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) headquarters provides overall management and production planning to ensure all prison industries are effective and efficient in supplying goods and services to both the internal Government market (within NOMS and increasingly the wider MOJ and other Government Departments) and external customers, while maximising the number and length of time prisoners are employed, and improving prisoners' employment and resettlement prospects. The unit also works with a range of employers who are, or who are looking to, bring work and training into prisons.

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff worked in the prison industries department of the National Offender Management Service in the latest period for which figures are available. [39854]

**Mr Blunt:** The Prison Industries unit within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) headquarters currently employs 54 FTE staff (including vacancies). These staff cover a wide range of tasks including responsibility for production across a wide range of industries; prison laundries; commercial contracts and partnerships; asset replacement; engagement with employees as well as land based activities.

#### Non-molestation Orders

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people in England and Wales breached an injunction made under Section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in each year from 1998 to 2010; and how many such people who received a summary conviction were given a (a) term of imprisonment, (b) fine and (c) term of imprisonment and fine; [39453]

(2) how many people in England and Wales were convicted under Section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 for offences of putting people in fear of violence in each year since 1998. [39454]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts and at magistrates courts for breach of an injunction under Section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and sentenced at the magistrates court to a fine, custodial sentence, or a custodial sentence and a fine, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2009 (latest available) are presented in Table 1.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts under section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2009 (latest available) are presented in Table 2.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Table 1: Number of persons convicted at all courts and at magistrates courts under section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997<sup>1</sup> and sentence breakdown at magistrates courts<sup>2</sup>

| Outcome                                 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008* | 2009 |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Found guilty at all courts              | 14   | 13   | 22   | 14   | 23   | 22   | 18   | 14   | 15   | 25   | 47    | 27   |
| Of which:                               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |
| Magistrates court                       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |
| Found guilty                            | 11   | 11   | 18   | 12   | 20   | 21   | 15   | 11   | 11   | 25   | 44    | 22   |
| Sentenced                               | 11   | 10   | 17   | 12   | 20   | 21   | 15   | 9    | 8    | 23   | 37    | 19   |
| Immediate custody                       | 3    | 3    | 4    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 6    | 4    | 3    | 4    | 6     | 3    |
| Fine                                    | 1    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 8    | 10   | 6    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 6     | 3    |
| Immediate custody and fine <sup>3</sup> | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0     | 0    |
| Other sentences <sup>4</sup>            | 7    | 1    | 6    | 3    | 10   | 9    | 3    | 2    | 4    | 17   | 25    | 13   |

<sup>1</sup> The following statutes were used for the corresponding offence:

Breach of the conditions of an injunction against

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

<sup>2</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>3</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Where immediate custody was the principal disposal and the fine was a secondary disposal.

<sup>6</sup> Includes: Absolute/conditional discharge, Community Sentence, Suspended Sentence and Otherwise dealt with.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice



Table 2: Number of persons found guilty at all courts under section 4<sup>1</sup> of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, England and Wales, 1998 to 2009<sup>2,3</sup>

| Offence                                                                            | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 <sup>4</sup> | 2009 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| Racially and Religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence (section 4) | 522  | 513  | 574  | 590  | 639  | 674  | 717  | 806  | 875  | 814  | 839               | 786  |

<sup>1</sup> The following statutes were used for the corresponding offence:

Putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4

Religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4, as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (3)

Racially or religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4, as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (3)

Racially aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4, as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (4)

<sup>2</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>3</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Prisoners

**Gavin Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners released from (a) HM Prison Featherstone and (b) HM Young Offender Institution Brinsford had no fixed address in each of the last five years. [39547]

**Mr Blunt:** Accommodation matters are managed locally, and the proportion of prisoners who leave custody with no fixed address is not routinely collected. Retrieving the requested information at Featherstone prison would necessitate a manual search of prisoner records from the last five years, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However Brinsford young offender institution has captured this information as set out in the following table:

|      | Prisoners                   |                                |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|      | No fixed abode on discharge | Number of prisoners discharged |
| 2007 | 3                           | 353                            |
| 2008 | 8                           | 694                            |
| 2009 | 10                          | 766                            |
| 2010 | 11                          | 731                            |

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average length of time was that a prisoner spent in a category (a) A, (b) B and (c) C prison before being transferred in the last year for which figures are available; [39855]

(2) what the average length of time was that prisoners spent at HM Prison (a) Channings Wood, (b) Coldingley, (c) Dartmoor, (d) Everthorpe, (e) Featherstone, (f) Haverigg, (g) Lancaster Castle, (h) Maidstone, (i) Risley, (j) Verne, (k) Wayland and (l) Wellingborough before being transferred in the last year for which figures are available. [39856]

**Mr Blunt:** In the management of the prison population the aim is to hold prisoners in establishments that provide the level of security required, are suitable for their gender, age and legal status, provide special facilities appropriate to prisoner needs and are near to their homes or the courts dealing with their cases.

Prisoners are moved from one prison to another as part of their sentence plan, following re-categorisation, where requested or where there is an operational need to do so.

Data are not held centrally on the average length of time a prisoner spends in a prison before a move to another prison.

This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would involve a manual trawl through the individual records of every prisoner.

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of purposeful activity per prisoner per week were delivered at HM Prison (a) Channings Wood, (b) Coldingley, (c) Dartmoor, (d) Everthorpe, (e) Featherstone, (f) Haverigg, (g) Lancaster Castle, (h) Maidstone, (i) Risley, (j) Verne, (k) Wayland and (l) Wellingborough in the latest period for which figures are available. [39889]

**Mr Blunt:** The latest published figures for purposeful activity per prisoner per week in prison establishments in England and Wales relate to 2008-09 and are available on the HM Prison Service website:

[http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10004A13purposeful\\_activity\\_establishments\\_feb\\_2010.pdf](http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10004A13purposeful_activity_establishments_feb_2010.pdf)

The published figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Establishment-level data on purposeful activity for 2009-10 are due to be published in March.

### Re-offenders: Drugs

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the (a) absolute number and (b) percentage of offenders who reoffended within one year of sentencing was in the last year for which figures are available; and what the rate of reoffending was for those who had received drug rehabilitation while serving (i) a custodial and (ii) any other sentence. [39770]

**Mr Blunt:** The latest re-conviction data are based on offences committed within one year of an offender being discharged from custody or commencing a court order under probation supervision in the first quarter of the year.

Of offenders used to measure re-conviction rates in 2008, the most recent year for which data are available, 21,541 were re-convicted within 12 months. This represented 40.1% of offenders.

Of offenders whose community penalty included a drug rehabilitation requirement in 2008, 68.5% were re-convicted within 12 months.

Re-conviction data for custodial offenders who received drug rehabilitation can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Therefore re-conviction rates are not available for these offenders.

Further information on adult re-conviction is available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm>

### Young Offenders

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his policy is on placing offenders aged 18 to 20 years within the general adult prison estate; and if he will make a statement; [39582]

(2) how many and what proportion of 18 to 20 year olds sentenced to detention in a young offender institution have been placed in a prison in each of the last three years for which information is available; [39583]

(3) how many and what proportion of 18 to 20 year old offenders in prison in January 2010 were serving sentences within the general adult prison population; [39584]

(4) what his policy is on the sentence of detention in a young offender institution; and what plans he has to bring into force section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000; [39585]

(5) what the average (a) capacity and (b) occupancy rate was of each young offender institution holding 18 to 20 year old offenders in each of the last three years. [39586]

**Mr Blunt:** Young adults sentenced to detention in a young offender institution (DYOI) are detained in young offender institutions (YOIs) as required by section 98 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. These are normally self-contained but in some instances are situated within an adult prison with which they share the majority of their facilities. Whatever the location, young adults detained in YOIs have separate sleeping accommodation and are always managed in accordance with the YOI rules.

Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 is currently being considered in the context of the reform of sentencing and penalties.

It is not possible to provide the information requested in the final three of the hon. Member's questions precisely in the format requested. Information is therefore provided on the basis of the predominant function of each establishment. Consequently, where a young adult is shown as being located in a prison whose predominant

function is to hold adult prisoners, this will frequently be in a self-contained young adult unit.

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of 18 to 20-year-olds under immediate custodial sentence that were received into an establishment whose predominant function was to hold adult prisoners in England and Wales in 2007-09.

Table 2 shows the number and proportion of 18 to 20-year-olds under immediate custodial sentence that were located in establishments whose predominant function was to hold adult prisoners in England and Wales as at the last day of January 2011 (I have assumed that the hon. Member means January 2011 rather than January 2010).

Table 3 shows the occupancy rate of establishments whose predominant function was a young offender institution (excluding those YOIs where places are commissioned exclusively by the Youth Justice Board) in England and Wales on the last day of June 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Table 1: Number and percentage of 18 to 20-year-olds received into a prison (as determined by predominant function)

|      | Number | Percentage |
|------|--------|------------|
| 2007 | 6,454  | 47         |
| 2008 | 6,873  | 49         |
| 2009 | 6,434  | 47         |

Table 2: Number and percentage of 18 - 20 year olds located in a prison (as determined by predominant function)

|      | Number | Percentage |
|------|--------|------------|
| 2011 | 1,749  | 29         |

Table 3

|      | Population in YOIs <sup>1</sup> | Capacity in YOIs <sup>1</sup> | Occupancy rate (percentage) |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2008 | 6,722                           | 7,108                         | 95                          |
| 2009 | 6,879                           | 7,533                         | 91                          |
| 2010 | 6,712                           | 7,454                         | 90                          |

<sup>1</sup> As determined by predominant function and not including YOIs exclusively used by the YJB.

### CABINET OFFICE

#### Average Earnings: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the average weekly salary of those in employment in the Peterborough city council area in each year since 2001. [39538]

**Mr Hurd [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the average weekly salary of those in employment in the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 2001. (39538)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period

was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the median gross weekly earnings for all, full-time and part-time employees working in Peterborough unitary authority for the years 2001 to 2010.

*Median gross weekly earnings for all, full-time and part-time employee jobs<sup>1</sup> Peterborough Unitary Authority 2001-10*

|                   | Full-time employees | Part-time employees | All employees |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 2001              | 353                 | **108               | 306           |
| 2002              | 377                 | **105               | 327           |
| 2003              | 388                 | **120               | 341           |
| 2004 <sup>2</sup> | 406                 | **130               | 364           |
| 2004 <sup>3</sup> | 394                 | **134               | 357           |
| 2005              | 402                 | *141                | 363           |
| 2006 <sup>4</sup> | 427                 | **135               | 383           |
| 2006 <sup>5</sup> | 423                 | **135               | 380           |
| 2007              | 442                 | **147               | 400           |
| 2008              | 452                 | *160                | 385           |
| 2009              | 468                 | *164                | 401           |
| 2010              | 487                 | *164                | 407           |

<sup>1</sup> Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

<sup>2</sup> 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.

<sup>3</sup> 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey. For more information see National Statistics website at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

<sup>4</sup> 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2005.

<sup>5</sup> 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2007.

*Guide to quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

*Key:*

CV <= 5%

\* CV >5% and <= 10%

\*\* CV >10% and <20%

*Source:*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics.

#### Cabinet Committees: EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how Government Departments with responsibility for transposing (a) EU directives and (b) other EU legislation into UK law have been represented at the European Affairs Committee of the Cabinet; and if he will make a statement. [38902]

**Mr Maude:** The membership of the European Affairs Committee can be found on the Cabinet Office website, at the following address:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/cabinet-committees-system.pdf>

#### Carbon Emissions

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the contribution of real time energy monitoring to achieving the Government's objective to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 10 per cent. year-on-year. [39495]

**Mr Maude:** The Government have committed to reduce carbon emissions from their office estate by 10% by May 2011. It is too early to determine the contribution of real time energy monitoring to achieving this commitment.

Progress is published monthly and is publically available at:

<http://data.gov.uk/departamental-performance-co%E2%82%82-emissions-reduction-date>

#### Departmental Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the salary is of the lowest paid member of staff working at (a) 10 Downing street and (b) Chequers. [39174]

**Mr Maude:** All staff working in No. 10 are paid on Cabinet Office pay bands, details of which can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Cabinet-Office\\_0.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Cabinet-Office_0.pdf)

The Chequers estate does not employ any Cabinet Office staff.

#### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39216]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office has published all relevant contract and tender documents within scope of the effective dates that have been authorised for publication.

#### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each devolved administration in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39404]

**Mr Maude:** In the 2010 spending review, changes in the departmental expenditure limit budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading "House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula":

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the main and supplementary estimates.



### Employment

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of (a) men and (b) women are employed in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time jobs in (A) each region, (B) Scotland, (C) Wales and (D) Northern Ireland. [40157]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

### Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) men and (b) women are employed in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time jobs in (A) each region, (B) Scotland, (C) Wales and (D) Northern Ireland. 40157.

The information requested is shown in the tables. The estimates are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for the period July 2009 to June 2010. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Employment, full-time and part-time by region 12 months ending June 2010, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

|                  | Employment level |           |           |           | Thousand  |           |
|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                  | Male             |           | Female    |           | Total     |           |
|                  | Full time        | Part time | Full time | Part time | Full time | Part time |
| North East       | 521              | 69        | 308       | 230       | 829       | 300       |
| North West       | 1,433            | 205       | 847       | 596       | 2,280     | 801       |
| Yorkshire        | 1,104            | 164       | 625       | 498       | 1,729     | 662       |
| East Midlands    | 1,003            | 131       | 546       | 435       | 1,549     | 566       |
| West Midlands    | 1,132            | 155       | 632       | 488       | 1,764     | 644       |
| East             | 1,334            | 161       | 696       | 573       | 2,030     | 734       |
| London           | 1,775            | 277       | 1,077     | 589       | 2,852     | 866       |
| South East       | 1,922            | 272       | 1,026     | 892       | 2,947     | 1,165     |
| South West       | 1,130            | 193       | 603       | 569       | 1,732     | 762       |
| Wales            | 588              | 89        | 348       | 273       | 935       | 362       |
| Scotland         | 1,126            | 147       | 675       | 510       | 1,802     | 657       |
| Northern Ireland | 366              | 44        | 216       | 136       | 582       | 180       |
| UK               | 13,434           | 1,907     | 7,599     | 5,789     | 21,031    | 7,699     |

*Percentage employed of the population*

|                  | Percentage |           |           |           | Percentage |           |
|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|                  | Male       |           | Female    |           | Total      |           |
|                  | Full time  | Part time | Full time | Part time | Full time  | Part time |
| North East       | 51.2       | 6.8       | 28.5      | 21.3      | 39.5       | 14.3      |
| North West       | 53.2       | 7.6       | 30.0      | 21.1      | 41.3       | 14.5      |
| Yorkshire        | 53.7       | 8.0       | 29.0      | 23.1      | 41.1       | 15.7      |
| East Midlands    | 56.5       | 7.4       | 29.9      | 23.8      | 43.0       | 15.7      |
| West Midlands    | 53.5       | 7.3       | 28.6      | 22.1      | 40.8       | 14.9      |
| East             | 59.0       | 7.1       | 29.6      | 24.3      | 44.0       | 15.9      |
| London           | 57.8       | 9.0       | 34.0      | 18.6      | 45.7       | 13.9      |
| South East       | 58.7       | 8.3       | 29.6      | 25.7      | 43.7       | 17.3      |
| South West       | 54.7       | 9.3       | 27.7      | 26.1      | 40.8       | 18.0      |
| Wales            | 50.1       | 7.6       | 27.9      | 21.9      | 38.6       | 15.0      |
| Scotland         | 55.6       | 7.3       | 30.4      | 22.9      | 42.4       | 15.5      |
| Northern Ireland | 54.3       | 6.5       | 30.2      | 19.0      | 41.9       | 13.0      |
| UK               | 55.5       | 7.9       | 29.9      | 22.8      | 42.4       | 15.5      |

Source:  
Annual Population Survey (APS)

### Energy Efficiency Competition

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has plans to extend the Government department headquarters energy efficiency competition to other government-owned buildings. [39493]

**Mr Maude:** There are no plans to hold another competition but the 18 Government headquarter buildings continue to publish their energy data online and in real time. These buildings are also included in the scope of the Government's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 10% by May 2011.

The Energy data are publically available and can be viewed at:

<http://data.gov.uk/departamental-performance-co%E2%82%82-emissions-reduction-date>

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the interdepartmental headquarters energy efficiency competition in reducing energy use by central Government Departments; and whether he plans to continue the scheme. [39494]

**Mr Maude:** The energy consumption in the 18 Government headquarter buildings over the period of the competition ranged from a 22% saving to a 14% increase. The real time energy performance data are published on data.gov.uk.

<http://data.gov.uk/departamental-performance-co%E2%82%82-emissions-reduction-date>

### Financial Services

**John Mann:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of total value-added in 2009 attributable to the financial sector. [40784]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of total value-added in 2009 was attributable to the financial sector. [40784]

The proportion of total value added in 2009 in respect of the financial sector was 7.1%.

### Marriage: Females

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of women aged 56 are married. [39511]

**Mr Hurd [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what proportion of women aged 56 are married (39511).

Of the estimated 320,300 women aged 56 in England and Wales in 2009, an estimated 69 per cent were married. 2009 is the latest year for which population estimates are available.

Of the estimated 32,300 women aged 56 in Scotland in 2008, an estimated 71 per cent were married. 2008 is the latest year for which population estimates by marital status for Scotland are available.

### Official Residences: Costs

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of residences used by Ministers. [39173]

**Mr Maude:** The information requested is not held centrally. Costs of official residences are a matter for the occupying Minister's Department.

### Older Workers

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the employment rate for 30 year old (a) women and (b) men was in 1984. [40181]

**Mr Hurd [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the employment rate for 30 year old (a) women and (b) men was in 1984. 40181

For the spring quarter (March to May) of 1984 the estimated employment rate for women aged 30 was 52 per cent and the employment rate for men aged 30 was 85 per cent. These estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted.

### Older Workers: Average Earnings

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the average earnings of (a) women and (b) men aged (i) 50, (ii) 55 and (iii) 60. [40179]

**Mr Hurd [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the average earnings of (a) women and (b) men aged (i) 50, (ii) 55 and (iii) 60. [40179]

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the median gross weekly earnings in 2010 for all, full-time and part-time male and female employees aged (i) 50, (ii) 55 and (iii) 60.

*Median gross weekly earnings—for all, full-time and part-time male and female employees jobs<sup>1</sup> aged (i) 50, (ii) 55 and (iii) 60: April 2010*

| Age | £        |            |                |                  |                |                  |
|-----|----------|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|     | All male | All female | Full-time male | Full-time female | Part-time male | Part-time female |
| 50  | 575.1    | 337.1      | 600.8          | 451.0            | **178.4        | 180.8            |
| 55  | 556.7    | 325.8      | 580.6          | 444.5            | **185.0        | 174.2            |
| 60  | 476.3    | 272.2      | 517.5          | 417.8            | *198.6         | 167.0            |

<sup>1</sup> Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

*Guide to quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

*Key:*

CV <= 5%

\* CV >5% and <= 10%

\*\* CV >10% and <= 20%

*Source:*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics

### Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assumptions he has made of the dropout rate from the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme attributable to (a) potential increases in contributions and (b) its indexation against the consumer prices index; what assessment he has made of the effect of the dropout rate on the future viability of this fund; and if he will make a statement. [40355]

**Mr Maude:** The Office for Budget Responsibility has estimated that some additional members, amounting to 1% of the value of the pay bill, would opt out of all the public service schemes as a result of the increase in pension contributions.

Further consideration of the effects of this policy on the opt-out rate will be made as part of the process of determining the distribution of increases in contributions across members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. We are engaging with employee representatives on the principles to apply across public service schemes and wish to implement change in a way which minimises increases in opt-out rates. The Government have already committed to implementing contribution increases in a progressive way so that higher earners pay higher rates than lower earners. We expect also to take into account that the indexation changes are likely to impact more on members of the whole career scheme, *nuvos*, than on members of the final salary schemes.

No assessment has been made of the number of additional members that might opt out as a result of the change in indexation.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the pension entitlement will be of a member of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme who retires after 30 years' full-time service on a salary of (a) £10,000, (b) £15,000, (c) £20,000, (d) £25,000, (e) £30,000, (f) £40,000 and (g) £50,000 if the pension is uprated in line with (i) the retail prices index and (ii) the consumer prices index. [40368]

**Mr Maude:** The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme rules set out the calculation of pensions payable to members on retirement. A copy of the rules can be found in the Library of the House and also on the civil service website. The pensions of classic and premium members are based on final salary and pensions at retirement are the same regardless of the index used for uprating. *nuvos* members have their pensions based on their salary in each and every year of their career, and each year's pension is uprated in line with inflation. It is therefore not possible to calculate *nuvos* pensions solely on the basis of salary at retirement.

#### Public Houses

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 979W, how many (a) public houses and (b) clubs closed in each (i) region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) constituency in each year since 2002. [40194]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) public houses and (b) clubs closed in each (i) region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) constituency in each year since 2002. [40194]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise deaths are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

However, information by parliamentary constituency is only available from 2005 onwards. The latest statistics on the number of enterprise deaths for licensed clubs and public houses/bars have been provided in the tables. Table 1 gives information by country, region, county and county district. Table 2 gives information by parliamentary constituency.

A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

#### Teenage Pregnancy

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 645-46W, on teenage pregnancy, if he will publish rates of live births to mothers aged over 14 and under 18 years in each (a) local authority area and (b) primary care trust area in each year since 2001. [39913]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what were the rates of live births to mothers aged 14 and over and under 18 years in each a) local authority area and b) primary care area in each year since 2001 [39913].

The tables provide rates of live births in England and Wales to mothers aged under 18 in each (a) Local Authority District (Table 1) and (b) Primary Care Organisation (Table 2) for 2001-2008. The figures for 2009 were given in the answer to your previous question [35842] (31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 645-6W, on teenage pregnancy).

A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Information on live births is routinely published by different characteristics of birth and is available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408>

#### HEALTH

##### Animal Feed: Genetically Modified Organisms

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the entry of animal feed containing genetically modified organisms into the food chain. [39555]

**Anne Milton:** The assessment and marketing of genetically modified (GM) varieties for use in animal feed is harmonised at European Union level by Regulation (EC) 1829/2003, which requires all materials to undergo a pre-market evaluation prior to a decision on their authorisation. The evaluation is carried out by the European Food Safety Authority and covers human and animal health, environmental risks and nutrition.

Government policy is that all GM applications should be assessed case-by-case on the basis of the science and that consumers should be able to exercise a choice on the basis of clear labelling and the provision of relevant information. However, there is no requirement to label animal products for human consumption—meat, milk and eggs—because these do not themselves contain GM organisms or GM-derived material.



### Aspartame

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the protocols relating to the research study commissioned by the Food Standards Agency into reports of alleged anecdotal complaints about the effects of aspartame.

[39648]

**Anne Milton:** Aspartame is approved across the European Union for use as a sweetener in food. Its safety has been reviewed on several occasions by independent expert scientific committees in the United Kingdom, the EU and internationally. The most recent opinion from the European Food Safety Authority, updated in 2009, concluded that aspartame was safe at current levels of consumption.

There are anecdotal reports of adverse effects associated with aspartame consumption, but these have not been reliably reproduced in controlled investigations. The Food Standards Agency has commissioned research to establish whether there is a small group of consumers who are particularly sensitive to this sweetener but who have not previously been identified.

A copy of the protocol has been placed in the Library.

### Asthma: Health Services

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to encourage GPs to follow British Guideline on the Management of Asthma recommendations to review the treatment of asthma patients on higher dose steroids every three months; and if he will make a statement.

[39738]

**Paul Burstow:** The British Guideline on the Management of Asthma, developed by Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), is recognised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and is referenced in the general practice quality and outcomes framework indicators for asthma. As both SIGN and NICE guidelines are accredited sources of evidence, we expect national health service organisations to take them into account in treating patients and commissioning services.

On the advice of the National Quality Board, the Department has referred asthma to NICE for the development of a Quality Standard to ensure high quality care across the whole asthma care pathway.

### Cancer: Drugs

**Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time taken for a decision to be made on an application for funding from the Interim Cancer Drugs Fund was in each strategic health authority in the latest period for which figures are available.

[39953]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not available centrally.

In July 2010 the NHS Medical Director issued guidance to strategic health authorities which makes clear that arrangements for the distribution of the £50 million of additional cancer drugs funding made available in this financial year should support timely decision-making, bearing in mind the 31-day cancer treatment standard. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

**Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways the experiences of operating the Interim Cancer Drugs Fund have informed the planned structure of the permanent fund.

[39954]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We held a three-month public consultation on our proposals for the Cancer Drugs Fund which closed on 19 January and responses to the consultation are currently being considered.

The implementation of the Cancer Drugs Fund from April will be informed by the consultation responses, and relevant experience from the operation of the interim cancer drugs funding arrangements.

### Cancer: Mortality Rates

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mortality rate from (a) cancer and (b) heart attacks was in each year since 1995.

[40872]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the annual mortality rate from (a) cancer and (b) heart attacks was for each year since 1995. (40872)

The table attached provides age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, where the underlying cause of death was (a) cancer and (b) heart attacks, in England and Wales, for 1995 to 2009 (the latest year available).

In England and Wales, causes of death are coded using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 had a significant effect on mortality rates for some diseases, causing a discontinuity in mortality trends for these causes of death. However ONS practice is not to adjust the historical numbers of deaths shown in PQ answers. More information on this issue can be found at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality)

For all cancers (ICD-10 codes C00-C97) the introduction of ICD-10 caused an increase of 2.5% for males and 2.2% for females. An article specifically examining the changes for cancer trends was published in "Health Statistics Quarterly 23"<sup>1</sup>. This article also presents comparability ratios (the ratio of the number of deaths coded to a cause in ICD-10 to the number coded to the equivalent cause in ICD-9) for the most common cancer sites. A copy of this report can be downloaded at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725)

For acute myocardial infarction (heart attacks) (ICD-10 codes I21-I22) the introduction of ICD-10 caused a decrease of 6.3% for males and 7.4% for females. An article specifically examining the changes for circulatory disease trends was published in "Health Statistics Quarterly 22"<sup>2</sup>. This article also presents comparability ratios (the ratio of the number of deaths coded to a cause in ICD-10 to the number coded to the equivalent cause in ICD-9) for specific types of circulatory disease. A copy of this report can be downloaded at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15342](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15342)

<sup>1</sup> Brock A, Griffiths C, and Rooney C (2004) 'The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on cancer mortality trends in England and Wales.' *Health Statistics Quarterly* 23, 7-17

<sup>2</sup> Griffiths C, Brock A and Rooney C (2004) 'The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on trends in mortality from circulatory disease in England and Wales.' *Health Statistics Quarterly* 22, 14-20

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096>

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rates<sup>1</sup> from (a) cancer and (b) heart attack,<sup>2</sup> in England and Wales,<sup>3</sup> 1995-2009<sup>4</sup>

|      | Rate per 100,000 population |                  |
|------|-----------------------------|------------------|
|      | (a) Cancer                  | (b) Heart attack |
| 1995 | 204                         | 98               |
| 1996 | 202                         | 92               |
| 1997 | 196                         | 84               |
| 1998 | 196                         | 79               |
| 1999 | 190                         | 72               |
| 2000 | 187                         | 65               |
| 2001 | 189                         | 59               |
| 2002 | 188                         | 57               |
| 2003 | 184                         | 53               |
| 2004 | 180                         | 47               |
| 2005 | 178                         | 43               |
| 2006 | 177                         | 39               |
| 2007 | 175                         | 36               |
| 2008 | 173                         | 33               |
| 2009 | 170                         | 30               |

<sup>1</sup> Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

<sup>2</sup> Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-209 (malignant neoplasms) and 410 (acute myocardial infarction) for the years 1995-2000; and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 (malignant neoplasms) and I21-I22 (acute and subsequent myocardial infarction) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were selected where these conditions were the underlying cause of death. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from these causes before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non residents.

<sup>4</sup> Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Cataracts: Surgery

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of cataract surgery treatment that was performed by the private sector in each primary care trust area in the last year for which figures are available. [39777]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The table provided by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for cataract surgery performed by the private sector in each primary care trust (PCT) for 2009-10.

The cataract surgery treatment performed by the private sector in each primary care trust area is defined as treatment provided within the independent sector which has been undertaken on behalf of the national health service. This analysis does not include private health care provided for private patients.

Count and proportion of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)<sup>1</sup> with a main or secondary procedure<sup>2</sup> of cataract surgery treatment<sup>3</sup> within each PCT of main provider and those performed by the private sector in each PCT of main provider, 2009-10

| PCT of main provider               | Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector |                                                                             |                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                    | Total episodes in each PCT of main provider                                                       | Total episodes performed by the private sector in each PCT of main provider | Proportion of episodes performed by the private sector (percentage) |
| Total                              | 346,969                                                                                           | 16,370                                                                      | 5                                                                   |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT        | 1,908                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Barnet PCT                         | 716                                                                                               | 11                                                                          | 2                                                                   |
| Barnsley PCT                       | 1                                                                                                 | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT   | 1,755                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Bedfordshire PCT                   | 1,819                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Berkshire East PCT                 | 12                                                                                                | 12                                                                          | 100                                                                 |
| Berkshire West PCT                 | 4,843                                                                                             | 10                                                                          | 0                                                                   |
| Bexley Care Trust                  | 5,932                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Birmingham East and North PCT      | 3,486                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT          | 3,233                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Blackpool PCT                      | 2,855                                                                                             | 4                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Bolton PCT                         | 2,784                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT | 4,779                                                                                             | 303                                                                         | 6                                                                   |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT | 3,257                                                                                             | 493                                                                         | 15                                                                  |
| Brent Teaching PCT                 | 1,005                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Brighton and Hove City PCT         | 3,206                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Bristol PCT                        | 6,161                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Buckinghamshire PCT                | 3,034                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Cambridgeshire PCT                 | 4,109                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Camden PCT                         | 4,128                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT   | 2,740                                                                                             | 86                                                                          | 3                                                                   |
| Central Lancashire PCT             | 2,541                                                                                             | 649                                                                         | 26                                                                  |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT   | 3,945                                                                                             | 954                                                                         | 24                                                                  |
| Coventry Teaching PCT              | 2,824                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Croydon PCT                        | 1,763                                                                                             | 97                                                                          | 6                                                                   |
| Cumbria Teaching PCT               | 4,893                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Darlington PCT                     | 2,475                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Derby City PCT                     | 4,058                                                                                             | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |

Count and proportion of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)<sup>1</sup> with a main or secondary procedure<sup>2</sup> of cataract surgery treatment<sup>3</sup> within each PCT of main provider and those performed by the private sector in each PCT of main provider, 2009-10

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

| PCT of main provider                    | Total episodes in each PCT of main provider | Total episodes performed by the private sector in each PCT of main provider | Proportion of episodes performed by the private sector (percentage) |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Derbyshire County PCT                   | 2,518                                       | 6                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Devon PCT                               | 4,687                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Doncaster PCT                           | 3,584                                       | 198                                                                         | 6                                                                   |
| Dorset PCT                              | 1,552                                       | 79                                                                          | 5                                                                   |
| Dudley PCT                              | 1,707                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT        | 2,626                                       | 617                                                                         | 23                                                                  |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT            | 4,327                                       | 33                                                                          | 1                                                                   |
| East Lancashire Teaching PCT            | 12                                          | 12                                                                          | 100                                                                 |
| Enfield PCT                             | 1,344                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Gateshead PCT                           | 2                                           | 2                                                                           | 100                                                                 |
| Gloucestershire PCT                     | 4,487                                       | 2                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT          | 1,697                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Halton and St Helens PCT                | 16                                          | 16                                                                          | 100                                                                 |
| Hampshire PCT                           | 3,935                                       | 12                                                                          | 0                                                                   |
| Hastings and Rother PCT                 | 3,094                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Havering PCT                            | 1,545                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT        | 4,035                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Herefordshire PCT                       | 1,637                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT     | 231                                         | 231                                                                         | 100                                                                 |
| Hillingdon PCT                          | 1,235                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Hull Teaching PCT                       | 3,242                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Isle of Wight NHS PCT                   | 909                                         | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Islington PCT                           | 14,430                                      | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT              | 552                                         | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Kingston PCT                            | 2,202                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Kirklees PCT                            | 2,266                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Knowsley PCT                            | 1,862                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Lambeth PCT                             | 2,530                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Leeds PCT                               | 4,754                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Leicester City PCT                      | 2,929                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT   | 2,175                                       | 12                                                                          | 1                                                                   |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT               | 4,931                                       | 1,245                                                                       | 25                                                                  |
| Liverpool PCT                           | 5,073                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Luton PCT                               | 1,822                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Manchester PCT                          | 9,202                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Middlesbrough PCT                       | 4,066                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Mid Essex PCT                           | 2,022                                       | 106                                                                         | 5                                                                   |
| Milton Keynes PCT                       | 1,048                                       | 366                                                                         | 35                                                                  |
| Newcastle PCT                           | 8,160                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Norfolk PCT                             | 7,203                                       | 2                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT           | 4,807                                       | 142                                                                         | 3                                                                   |
| North East Essex PCT                    | 6,556                                       | 4,549                                                                       | 69                                                                  |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus | 2,633                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT            | 5,266                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Nottingham City PCT                     | 4,338                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT     | 2,336                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Oxfordshire PCT                         | 2,723                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Peterborough PCT                        | 1,652                                       | 26                                                                          | 2                                                                   |
| Plymouth Teaching PCT                   | 2,933                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT            | 3,145                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Redbridge PCT                           | 355                                         | 355                                                                         | 100                                                                 |
| Rotherham PCT                           | 3,811                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Salford PCT                             | 4                                           | 4                                                                           | 100                                                                 |
| Sefton PCT                              | 1,958                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Sheffield PCT                           | 4,180                                       | 34                                                                          | 1                                                                   |
| Shropshire County PCT                   | 3,350                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Somerset PCT                            | 5,204                                       | 1,544                                                                       | 30                                                                  |
| Southampton City PCT                    | 2,694                                       | 42                                                                          | 2                                                                   |
| South Birmingham PCT                    | 1,709                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| South East Essex PCT                    | 4,512                                       | 8                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| South Gloucestershire PCT               | 233                                         | 233                                                                         | 100                                                                 |



Count and proportion of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)<sup>1</sup> with a main or secondary procedure<sup>2</sup> of cataract surgery treatment<sup>3</sup> within each PCT of main provider and those performed by the private sector in each PCT of main provider: 2009-10

| Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector |                                             |                                                                             |                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PCT of main provider                                                                              | Total episodes in each PCT of main provider | Total episodes performed by the private sector in each PCT of main provider | Proportion of episodes performed by the private sector (percentage) |
| South Staffordshire PCT                                                                           | 3,950                                       | 2,970                                                                       | 75                                                                  |
| Southwark PCT                                                                                     | 2,234                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| South West Essex PCT                                                                              | 3                                           | 3                                                                           | 100                                                                 |
| Stockport PCT                                                                                     | 1,795                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Stoke On Trent PCT                                                                                | 2,234                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Suffolk PCT                                                                                       | 3,780                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT                                                                           | 7,674                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Surrey PCT                                                                                        | 9,691                                       | 50                                                                          | 1                                                                   |
| Sutton and Merton PCT                                                                             | 1,587                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Swindon PCT                                                                                       | 1,501                                       | 52                                                                          | 3                                                                   |
| Torbay Care Trust                                                                                 | 2,020                                       | 88                                                                          | 4                                                                   |
| Tower Hamlets PCT                                                                                 | 485                                         | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Wakefield District PCT                                                                            | 3,028                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Walsall Teaching PCT                                                                              | 962                                         | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Waltham Forest PCT                                                                                | 3,085                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Wandsworth PCT                                                                                    | 3                                           | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Warrington PCT                                                                                    | 2,014                                       | 46                                                                          | 2                                                                   |
| Warwickshire PCT                                                                                  | 1,863                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Western Cheshire PCT                                                                              | 1,675                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| West Essex PCT                                                                                    | 1,263                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| West Hertfordshire PCT                                                                            | 1,441                                       | 156                                                                         | 11                                                                  |
| West Kent PCT                                                                                     | 3,988                                       | 62                                                                          | 2                                                                   |
| Westminster PCT                                                                                   | 2,242                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| West Sussex PCT                                                                                   | 4,313                                       | 122                                                                         | 3                                                                   |
| Wiltshire PCT                                                                                     | 1,507                                       | 300                                                                         | 20                                                                  |
| Wirral PCT                                                                                        | 1,809                                       | 26                                                                          | 1                                                                   |
| Wolverhampton City PCT                                                                            | 2,656                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |
| Worcestershire PCT                                                                                | 3,856                                       | 0                                                                           | 0                                                                   |

<sup>1</sup> *Finished Consultant Episode*

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

<sup>2</sup> *Number of Episodes with a main (named) or secondary procedure*

The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients undergoing a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

<sup>3</sup> *Cataract Surgery Treatment*

The following combination of ICD-10 and OPCS-4 codes used to identify cataract surgery treatment:

*ICD-10 codes:*

H25.- Senile cataract  
H26.- Other cataract  
H28.0A Diabetic cataract  
H28.1A Cataract in other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases  
H28.2A Cataract in other diseases classified elsewhere  
Q12.0 Congenital cataract

*OPCS 4 codes:*

C71.- Extracapsular extraction of lens  
C72.- Intracapsular extraction of lens  
C73.- Incision of capsule of lens  
C74.- Other extraction of lens  
C75.- Prosthesis of lens  
C77.- Other operations on lens

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

### Clinical Trials

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether willing providers of hospital services will be required to join in medical science trials. [39727]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" emphasises the Government's commitment to the promotion and conduct of research as a core role of the national health service. However, NHS organisations are not currently required

to participate in clinical trials or other research, and there will be no requirement for willing providers of hospital services to do so.

### Dentistry

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to repeal those parts of sections 36C and D of the Dentists Act 1984 which preclude the General Dental Council from individually assessing the qualifications of UK citizens to become dental care professionals. [40814]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The General Dental Council's (GDC's) practice of approving qualifications, which are awarded by recognised training institutions, for the registration of both dentists and dental care professionals (DCPs) protects the public by ensuring common standards of training and education. However, we have sympathy for DCPs who qualified some time ago and whose qualifications are no longer recognised.

We understand that, in the past, some training institutions have put on short courses to bring DCPs up to the standards set by the GDC. We will explore with the GDC whether we might encourage training institutions to look again at developing these courses.

#### Eyes: Care Services

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has assessed the merits of (a) reforming the structure of ophthalmic services for elderly patients and (b) introducing new eye lens technologies for cataract surgery. [39776]

**Mr Simon Burns:** No such assessment has been made.

Currently primary care trusts are able to commission eye care services as they judge them to be needed in their areas.

The Health and Social Care Bill currently before the House sets out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices, supported by the creation of an NHS Commissioning Board.

Subject to parliamentary approval, GP consortia will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of national health service services including those for patients with cataracts. GP consortia will be responsible for managing their own commissioning budgets, and using these resources to commission services to achieve the best and most cost-efficient outcomes for patients. The NHS Commissioning Board will hold them to account for the quality of their commissioning.

#### General Practitioners

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether GP commissioning consortia will be required to become community interest companies; and if he will make a statement; [39445]

(2) whether GP consortia may be (a) unincorporated associations and (b) limited companies under his proposals for NHS reform; and if he will make a statement. [39575]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Commissioning consortia established in accordance with the provisions proposed by the Health and Social Care Bill would be statutory public bodies. They will therefore not be community interest companies, unincorporated associations or limited companies.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to put in place measures to prevent members of GP consortia from holding financial interests in any licensed healthcare provided; and if he will make a statement; [39446]

(2) whether he plans to put in place a mechanism to prevent members of GP commissioning consortia from awarding contracts to providers in which they have a financial interest. [39447]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill proposes clear statutory duties on commissioners in relation to procurement and in relation to anti-competitive behaviours. A clear set of underpinning rules and guidance will be developed to apply to general practitioner (GP) consortia, so that they have the necessary support to make decisions that are fair and transparent and avoid any perceived conflicts of interest.

In addition, the Bill also includes a requirement that each consortium's constitution sets out arrangements for decision-making and managing potential conflicts of interest.

#### General Practitioners: Monitor

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP consortia will be liable for a 10 per cent. penalty of turnover in cases where Monitor rules that they have practised anti-competitive behaviour in favouring a particular (a) healthcare provider and (b) NHS Foundation Trust under his proposals for NHS reform. [39571]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill does not give Monitor powers to impose financial penalties on commissioners of national health service services.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the role of Monitor in cases where an interested party makes an accusation of a GP consortium favouring an incumbent healthcare provider under his proposals for NHS reform. [39572]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill would provide concurrent powers for Monitor, alongside the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), to apply the Competition Act 1998 within the health care sector. Monitor would be obliged to consider any complaint from an interested party alleging an infringement under the Act and would have concurrent powers under the Act to investigate and take enforcement action. Further guidance on prohibitions of anti-competitive behaviour and investigations and enforcement action under the Competition Act 1998 is published on the OFT website at:

[www.offt.gov.uk/about-the-offt/legal-powers/legal/competition-act-1998/](http://www.offt.gov.uk/about-the-offt/legal-powers/legal/competition-act-1998/)

In addition, the Health and Social Care Bill would provide that the Secretary of State may make regulations, subject to parliamentary resolution, to impose requirements on commissioners of national health service services in relation to procurement, patient choice or competition (see clause 63). Such regulations may also confer power for Monitor to investigate and take certain enforcement action regarding a failure by a commissioner to comply with a requirement imposed by the regulations (see clause 64).

#### General Practitioners: Pay

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether GP consortia will be permitted to pay bonuses to their members from NHS commissioning board budgets; and if he will make a statement; [39444]

(2) if he will require that (a) salaries and (b) bonuses of GP consortia staff are published; and if he will make a statement. [39574]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill proposes that each commissioning consortium is to be a body corporate which may appoint employees on such terms and conditions (including remuneration) as they determine. 'Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps' set out that consortia will be required to make public their remuneration arrangements, and the Bill contains provision for this.

With the exception of the management allowance, which is to cover management costs, the intention is that a consortium's commissioning budget must be used exclusively for the commissioning of patient care. It would be distinct from the income that general practitioner practices earn under their primary medical care contract, from which they both meet their practice expenses, and derive their personal income.

#### Health Services: Travellers

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he plans to put in place under his proposals for NHS reform to provide access to (a) healthcare and (b) hospital care for (i) a homeless person and (ii) a member of a Traveller community not registered with a GP practice. [39449]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Commissioning consortia will be responsible for the provision of health care to homeless and unregistered populations in their geographical area. As is currently the situation with primary care trusts, in future, subject to passage of the Health and Social Bill, a general practitioner (GP) consortium will be the responsible commissioner for any patients registered with its constituent practices, even if they live elsewhere. A wider choice of GP practice will mean that some consortia patients may live beyond their boundaries.

Access to health care for hard to reach groups is a key priority for the Department. Inclusion Health is a programme that focuses specifically on improving the health outcomes of vulnerable groups, including the homeless, and Gypsies and Travellers. Inclusion Health seeks to drive improvements through reform and clinical leadership, and strives to ensure policies and programmes across health and the wider determinants of health consider the needs of those with complex problems.

#### Health Visitors

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of new health visitors which will be allocated to each local authority. [39475]

**Anne Milton:** Health visitors will not be allocated to local authorities.

The 'Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15' was accompanied by a national health service management letter from the Deputy Chief Executive of the NHS and the Chief Nursing Officer of England to all chief executives at strategic health authorities (SHAs) in England and all chief executives of primary care trusts in England. The letter provides indicative trajectories of workforce

growth for 2011-12 at a regional, SHA level. It is for SHAs to decide how to plan the growth in their area.

Copies of the implementation plan and management letter have been placed in the Library.

#### Health Visitors: Training

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he estimates his Department will complete the recruitment and training of 4,200 new health visitors. [39469]

**Anne Milton:** On 8 February 2011, the Department published the "Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15—A Call to Action", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The plan sets out a four year programme which will create a bigger, rejuvenated work force with an extra 4,200 health visitors by 2015 and an improvement in the quality of the health visiting service for children and families.

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he has allocated to the recruitment and training of 4,200 new health visitors. [39471]

**Anne Milton:** The training budget for 2011-12 has not yet been set, however funding for health visitor training will be provided from the Multi-Professional Education and Training (MPET) budget. The MPET service level agreement will ensure that sufficient investment is made in training to deliver the 4,200 commitment by 2015.

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of nurses who will become health visitors as part of his proposal to recruit and train 4,200 new health visitors; and whether nurses who become health visitors will be replaced. [39472]

**Anne Milton:** The Health Visitor Implementation Plan sets out a strategy to increase the work force through several routes. We expect that some new health visitors will come from nursing and midwifery roles. However, we will also be working to attract new recruits into direct entry programmes, to encourage former health visitors to return to practice and to improve retention in the current work force. A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

Each national health service organisation is responsible for planning the size of their nursing work force and will need to reflect health visitor expansion in these plans.

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to revise the application criteria and training requirements for health visitors. [39473]

**Anne Milton:** In order to achieve the best outcomes in health visitor education for both staff and patients alike, we are working closely with the Nursing Midwifery Council and the further and higher education sectors to review the application and training requirements of educational programmes.



The "Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15, A Call to Action" sets out our intention to improve the quality of health visiting services for children and families. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

#### Mental Health Services

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether secure psychiatric facilities that are currently NHS trusts will become foundation trusts under his proposals for NHS reform. [39573]

**Paul Burstow:** The national health service trusts that currently host the three high secure hospitals in England have so far been eligible to apply for foundation trust status. The coalition Government have, however, committed to establishing statutory arrangements to be made that will enable these organisations to benefit from the independence of foundation trust status while retaining appropriate safeguards to reflect their role in the criminal justice system.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether mental health care will fall within the commissioning responsibility of (a) GP consortia and (b) local authorities under his proposals for NHS reform. [39577]

**Paul Burstow:** Treatment of mental ill health, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies, will fall under the commissioning responsibility of GP consortia. Subject to public consultation, local authorities will take on responsibility for commissioning mental well-being promotion, anti-stigma and discrimination, and suicide and self-harm prevention public health activities. Health and well-being boards will bring together the key national health service, public health and social care leaders in each local authority area to work in partnership and will help to ensure consistency and integration of commissioning of mental health services.

#### Mental Health Services: Low Incomes

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the ability of those on low incomes to visit patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983; and if he will make a statement. [39591]

**Paul Burstow:** The ability of people on low incomes to visit patients detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 depends on the individual circumstances of the case. Under current arrangements, people in receipt of a qualifying benefit may be eligible for assistance in the form of a community care grant from the Social Fund.

#### Ministerial Meetings

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) his officials have had with representatives of Bondcare Medical Services since 12 May 2010; [39640]

(2) what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) his officials have had with representatives of Tribal since 12 May 2010; [39641]

(3) what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers and (c) his officials have had with representatives of Humana since 12 May 2010; [39642]

(4) what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) his officials have had with representatives of Nestor Primecare since 12 May 2010; [39643]

(5) what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) his officials have had with representatives of Serco since 12 May 2010; [39663]

(7) what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) his officials have had with representatives of United Health since 12 May 2010; [39667]

(6) what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) his official have had with representatives of Assura since 12 May 2010; [39665]

(8) what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) his officials have had with representatives of Care UK since 12 May 2010. [39669]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Ministers have had the following meetings with independent sector organisations where Humana, Tribal, United Health and Care UK representatives attended. However, the Department does not maintain central records of officials' meetings with representatives of healthcare providers, whether in the public, private or voluntary sectors.

| Date of meeting   | Ministers in attendance                                                        | Purpose of meeting                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 September 2010 | 1. Secretary of State<br>2. Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe) | Meeting with the Commissioning Service Industry Group—In attendance were representatives of independent sector organisations including Tribal, Humana and United Health |
| 26 October 2010   | 1. Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe)                          | Meeting with David Worslett (Director of NHS Partners Network)—Care UK representative was also in attendance as part of the NHS Partners Network                        |

#### NHS: Drugs

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 845W, how many and what proportion of drug treatment patients who have been in treatment for three years or more are resident in each primary care trust area; and how many such patients in each area are being prescribed substitute drugs. [40896]

**Anne Milton:** The national drug treatment monitoring system does not report data for numbers of people in drug treatment by primary care trust (PCT). Data showing people who have been in drug treatment for three years or more are available by local drug partnership area, most of which share boundaries with PCTs. These have been placed in the Library.

#### NHS: Managers

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary is of the chair of each (a) NHS trust and (b) foundation trust. [40509]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Levels of remuneration for NHS trust chairs have been determined centrally by the Government. On 10 March 2010, it was announced that there would be no increase to these rates for 2010-11.

Current rates are as follows:

**NHS Trust Chairs**

NHS Trust Band 1: £23,366

NHS Trust Band 2: £20,896

NHS Trust Band 3: £18,437.

The Appointments Commission, an executive non-departmental public body, manages appointments to NHS trusts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and publishes levels of remuneration on its website:

<https://www.appointments.org.uk/Home/Appointees/Remuneration>

Information on remuneration of NHS foundation trust chairs is not held centrally.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of (a) chairs, (b) non-executive directors and (c) both chairs and non-executive directors in the NHS are women. [40510]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Appointments Commission is responsible for the appointment of chairs and non-executive directors of NHS trusts, primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.

The following table shows, as at 1 February 2011, the proportion of chairs, non-executive directors and both chairs and non-executive directors in NHS trusts, PCTs, SHAs and provider PCTs who are women.

|                           | Female | Male  | Percentage<br>Not declared |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|----------------------------|
| Chairs                    | 30.43  | 69.57 | 0.00                       |
| Non-executives            | 35.24  | 64.69 | 0.07                       |
| Chairs and Non-executives | 34.55  | 65.40 | 0.06                       |

It does not include information relating to foundation trusts, so is not a full representation of the NHS. Foundation trust governors are responsible for their own board appointments.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of pay for chairs and non-executive directors in the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available. [40511]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not collected centrally but is included in the annual report of each organisation.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the amounts paid to chairs and non-executive directors of health service boards. [40566]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Rates for remuneration for chairs and non-executive directors in national health service trusts (including ambulance trusts), strategic health authorities, special health authorities and primary care trusts were determined by the Public Sector Pay Committee in 2006. They have been uplifted in line with the pay increase for senior executive staff under the pay framework for very senior managers in strategic and special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts, in line with the Government's response each year to the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. In line with the coalition Government's announcement of a two-year pay freeze for public sector staff earning over £21,000, there are no plans to review the amounts further.

NHS foundation trusts are accountable to their governors and members, including on the issue of remuneration. The remuneration rate of the chair and non-executive directors is for each NHS foundation trust to determine.

**NHS: Redundancy Pay**

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements are placed on NHS trusts to disclose information related to special payments of (a) £250,000 and over and (b) under £250,000; and whether such payments which consist of a cash sum under £250,000 and pension contributions which raise the total value of the package above £250,000 are required to be reported in the same way as payments consisting of cash sums over £250,000. [40793]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department requires NHS trusts to disclose in their annual audited accounts the total value and number of special payment cases. This includes all cases regardless of the amount paid.

In addition, the Department requires NHS trusts to disclose separately the value and number of any special payment of £250,000 or more and also provide a description of the payments in their annual audited accounts.

Where the cash sum of a payment is under £250,000 but the value is increased by a non-contractual pension contribution that raises the total value above £250,000, the special payment must be disclosed in the same way as any special payment of £250,000 or more.

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether each compromise or confidentiality agreement between a member of NHS staff and an employer is defined as a special severance payment subject to the guidance in Annex 4.13 of Managing Public Money. [40794]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Special severance payments are paid to employees, contractors and others above normal statutory or contractual requirements when leaving employment in public service whether they resign, are dismissed or reach an agreed termination of contract as defined in Annex 4.13 of Managing Public Money.

If a compromise or confidentiality agreement meets this definition then it is appropriately scrutinised by the Department.

**Organs: Donors**

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were listed on the organ donation register in (a) Norwich South constituency, (b) Norfolk and (c) England in each of the last 10 years. [39481]

**Anne Milton:** The number of people on the organ donation register in Norwich South constituency, Norfolk and England in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

| Year of registration | Norwich South | Norfolk | England   |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|-----------|
| <2001                | 11,120        | 95,834  | 5,536,092 |
| 2001                 | 2,256         | 17,205  | 988,854   |
| 2002                 | 2,030         | 18,957  | 916,977   |
| 2003                 | 1,808         | 12,401  | 732,649   |
| 2004                 | 2,033         | 15,947  | 844,250   |
| 2005                 | 2,253         | 15,642  | 907,367   |
| 2006                 | 2,428         | 16,882  | 966,884   |
| 2007                 | 2,127         | 14,514  | 839,285   |
| 2008                 | 2,394         | 15,555  | 919,340   |
| 2009                 | 2,305         | 15,588  | 864,877   |
| 2010                 | 2,336         | 16,119  | 925,140   |
| 2011                 | 99            | 838     | 50,077    |

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new organ donors were registered in (a) Norwich South constituency, (b) Norfolk and (c) England in each of the last 10 years. [39482]

**Anne Milton:** The number of new deceased organ donors registered in the Norwich South constituency, in Norfolk and in England is shown in the following tables. However, because organ donor postcodes have only been fully reported in the last three years, information has also been provided on the hospital of donation.

*Deceased organ donors per year, based on postcode*

| Year of registration | Norwich South | Norfolk | England | Completeness of postcode data (%) |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 2001                 | —             | —       | —       | 0.0                               |
| 2002                 | —             | —       | 1       | 0.1                               |
| 2003                 | —             | —       | —       | 0.0                               |
| 2004                 | —             | —       | —       | 0.0                               |
| 2005                 | —             | —       | —       | 0.0                               |
| 2006                 | —             | —       | 82      | 13.6                              |
| 2007                 | 1             | 4       | 399     | 63.3                              |
| 2008                 | 2             | 17      | 739     | 99.9                              |
| 2009                 | 0             | 13      | 780     | 99.7                              |
| 2010                 | 2             | 17      | 830     | 99.9                              |

*Deceased organ donors per year, based on donor hospital*

| Year of registration | Norwich South | Norfolk | England |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 2001                 | 5             | 7       | 641     |
| 2002                 | 1             | 4       | 654     |
| 2003                 | 6             | 8       | 599     |
| 2004                 | 6             | 8       | 682     |
| 2005                 | 2             | 5       | 635     |
| 2006                 | 4             | 6       | 648     |

*Deceased organ donors per year, based on donor hospital*

| Year of registration | Norwich South | Norfolk | England |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 2007                 | 4             | 7       | 667     |
| 2008                 | 6             | 12      | 757     |
| 2009                 | 8             | 12      | 816     |
| 2010                 | 11            | 15      | 847     |

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the number of people on the organ donor register. [39491]

**Anne Milton:** Currently over 17 million people have joined the organ donor register in the United Kingdom and there are a range of ongoing activities to promote organ donation. In autumn 2009, NHS Blood and Transplant launched a UK-wide public awareness campaign to encourage more people to join the organ donor register and to discuss their wishes in relation to organ donation with family members. NHS Blood and Transplant also works in partnerships with the national health service and commercial and third sector organisations to support local events around the country or national initiatives such as joining the register when registering with a doctor. From July 2011 we are running a pilot whereby all applicants applying for a driving licence online will be required to answer a question about organ donation. It is hoped that, by ensuring applicants spend time reading the question and considering their response, a higher number of people will join the organ donor register. We will evaluate this pilot, and if it is successful in increasing the number of people on the organ donor register, we will consider rolling it out across other areas.

**Osteoporosis**

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to preserve bone health in men and women over the age of 50; if he will include in the public health outcomes framework an indicator relating to the incidence of fragility fractures in individuals over the age of 50; and if he will make a statement. [39704]

**Paul Burstow:** The national health service continues to support primary prevention and early diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis in a number of ways, including:

The current contract with general practitioners includes a Directed Enhanced Service for diagnosis and prevention of osteoporosis; contract negotiations for April 2011 are ongoing.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published clinical guidelines on, and technology appraisals of drugs for, osteoporosis.

The NHS Clinical Knowledge Summaries (formerly PRODIGY) are a reliable source of evidence-based information and practical 'know how' about the common conditions managed in primary care. It is aimed at health care professionals working in primary and first-contact care, and provides information on osteoporosis prevention and management.

NHS Choices provides comprehensive information for the public on all aspects of osteoporosis and on beta thalassaemia major, in which osteoporosis is a known complication.

Guidance from the Department on effective interventions in health and social care on falls and fractures includes, as one of four objectives, the prevention of frailty, promotion of bone health and reduction of accidents.



We fund a national clinical audit of falls and bone health, delivered by the Royal College of Physicians. The audit measures the organisation of services and care provided to older people for falls prevention, bone health and fracture management. It provides national benchmarking data, using evidence-based quality standards, for a variety of health care settings: acute, primary care, care homes and mental health care.

'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: transparency in outcomes, proposals for a public health outcomes framework' was published for public consultation on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 31 March 2011, and the hon. Lady's question will be treated as a representation. Decisions on the content of the public health outcomes framework will be made when the responses to the consultation have been analysed and considered. The consultation that closed on 9 February 2011 ('Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care') included proposals for an indicator related to fragility fractures that would be shared with the NHS outcomes framework 2011-12, which was published on 20 December 2010.

#### Ovarian Cancer: Health Services

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to support effective commissioning for ovarian cancer. [40227]

**Paul Burstow:** The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' describes the Government's vision to create a more autonomous and accountable national health service. Within this new commissioning architecture, responsibility for most commissioning is devolved to local general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia, supported and held to account by an independent NHS commissioning board.

'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January, discusses how commissioners can be supported to commission cancer services, including ovarian cancer services, in the reformed NHS. A significant amount of cancer care is best commissioned for populations covering one and a half to two million. Where population size requirements mean that a single GP consortium is too small to commission a particular service, then GP consortia will wish to work collaboratively. GP consortia will be able to decide whether they wish to identify a lead consortium for commissioning more specialised cancer services or to do so through commissioning support organisations.

In addition, health and well-being boards in every upper-tier local authority will provide a mechanism for bringing together local NHS, public health and social care commissioners. This could provide a forum for the development of cross-cutting commissioning approaches to improve cancer services.

The Department and the National Cancer Action Team have previously provided commissioners with a range of commissioning guidance and support, such as 'the Cancer Commissioning Toolkit' and the 'Cancer Commissioning Guidance'. Going forward, this guidance will be developed to reflect what works best in supporting pathfinder GP consortia. In 2011, we will also develop a cancer commissioning support pack to enable commissioners to access in one place the key information they will need to discharge their functions effectively.

#### Primary Care Trusts: North East Offender Health Commissioning Unit

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the scores given to each application to the North East Offender Health Commissioning Unit for the award of a contract to provide NHS primary care services in respect of (a) quality, (b) delivery, (c) risk and (d) price. [39527]

**Paul Burstow:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 468W. This is a local issue for North East Offender Health Commissioning Unit, as responsibility for commissioning health services in publicly run prisons in England has been fully devolved to NHS primary care trusts since 2006. The information is used by County Durham PCT.

#### Transplant Surgery

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were assessed as needing an organ transplant in (a) Norwich South constituency, (b) Norfolk and (c) England in each of the last 10 years. [39483]

**Anne Milton:** The number of patients assessed as needing a transplant and added to the transplant list per year in the Norwich South constituency, in Norfolk and in England is shown in the following table.

| Year of registration | Norwich South | Norfolk | England |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 2001                 | 5             | 41      | 2,657   |
| 2002                 | 6             | 46      | 2,703   |
| 2003                 | 6             | 51      | 2,687   |
| 2004                 | 4             | 51      | 3,063   |
| 2005                 | 5             | 50      | 3,123   |
| 2006                 | 2             | 50      | 3,536   |
| 2007                 | 4             | 57      | 3,578   |
| 2008                 | 7             | 48      | 3,988   |
| 2009                 | 4             | 51      | 3,792   |
| 2010                 | 3             | 62      | 3,741   |

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died while waiting for an organ transplant in (a) Norwich South constituency, (b) Norfolk and (c) England in each of the last 10 years. [39484]

**Anne Milton:** The number of people who died while waiting for an organ transplant in the Norfolk South constituency, in Norfolk and in England is shown in the following table.

|      | Norwich South | Norfolk | England |
|------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 2001 | 0             | 1       | 357     |
| 2002 | 1             | 4       | 454     |
| 2003 | 0             | 0       | 440     |
| 2004 | 2             | 5       | 498     |
| 2005 | 3             | 7       | 518     |
| 2006 | 1             | 6       | 494     |
| 2007 | 0             | 3       | 552     |
| 2008 | 0             | 5       | 527     |

|       | Norwich South | Norfolk | England |
|-------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 2009  | 0             | 9       | 623     |
| 2010  | 0             | 6       | 534     |
| Total | 7             | 46      | 4,997   |

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children died while waiting for an organ transplant in (a) Norwich South constituency, (b) Norfolk and (c) England in each of the last 10 years. [39485]

**Anne Milton:** The number of children who died while waiting for an organ transplant in the Norwich South constituency, in Norfolk and in England in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

|       | Norwich South | Norfolk | England |
|-------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 2001  | 0             | 0       | 15      |
| 2002  | 0             | 0       | 15      |
| 2003  | 0             | 0       | 9       |
| 2004  | 0             | 0       | 14      |
| 2005  | 0             | 0       | 21      |
| 2006  | 0             | 0       | 24      |
| 2007  | 0             | 0       | 24      |
| 2008  | 0             | 0       | 17      |
| 2009  | 0             | 0       | 18      |
| 2010  | 0             | 2       | 16      |
| Total | 0             | 2       | 173     |

#### Tuberculosis

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to fund the Find and Treat tuberculosis project and the mobile x-ray screening Unit after April 2011. [40915]

**Anne Milton:** The national health service in London will be commissioning the Find and Treat service, including the mobile X-ray unit, in 2011-12.

#### Vaccination

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether vaccination and immunisation programmes will fall within the commissioning responsibility of (a) GP consortia and (b) local authorities under his proposals for NHS reform. [39579]

**Anne Milton:** Public Health England will be responsible for immunisation as one means of preventing infectious disease. It will be responsible for the national immunisation schedule and setting standards as advised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation and will fund the delivery of immunisation programmes via two routes: local authorities and the NHS commissioning board. We propose that local authorities should be responsible for commissioning immunisation programmes primarily delivered through schools, such as the human papillomavirus vaccine and the teenage booster (against tetanus, diphtheria and polio) from a range of providers. Local authorities will also work closely with Public Health England, the national health service and local partners to ensure co-ordination of any immunisation response during a public health incident. Given the existing contractual arrangements in primary care

commissioning for other immunisation programmes, we propose that Public Health England transfers funds from the public health budget to the NHS commissioning board to allow it to commission the remaining programmes. This will include the childhood, seasonal flu and pneumococcal (for older people) vaccination programmes.

The NHS commissioning board will be responsible for commissioning a service for the whole population. For programmes where general practitioners (GPs) are not preferred providers, or where individual GPs opt out or are decommissioned from providing a service, the NHS commissioning board will commission alternative providers as appropriate (for example community pharmacies).

The NHS will continue to commission targeted neonatal Hepatitis B and BCG vaccination provision, funded by Public Health England. Referral and opportunistic vaccination of those at clinical risk, for example intravenous drug users requiring Hepatitis B vaccination, or mothers needing post partum measles mumps and rubella vaccination, will also continue to be funded and commissioned by the NHS (including through existing primary care commissioning arrangements).

These proposals are currently subject to consultation.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance Services

**4. Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on charging parents for the use of his Department's child maintenance services. [39803]

**Maria Miller:** The implementation of legislation, put in place by the previous Administration, to allow for charging in the new statutory child maintenance service is part of the coalition Government's much broader strategy to encourage parents to collaborate more around the financial welfare of their children if a family experiences the separation or divorce of parents.

At present the child maintenance system can drive a wedge between separated parents. The Government want to help and encourage parents to collaborate and reach family-based maintenance arrangements wherever possible.

Along with easier access to wider support services, the gateway to the statutory scheme will ensure parents are supported to take responsibility and make family-based arrangements.

### Citizens' Pension

**19. Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to the merits of introducing a citizens' pension. [39821]

**Steve Webb:** The next generation face a different world to current pensioners due to longer working lives, increasing longevity and a changing pension landscape.

We are currently looking at a number of options for simplifying the state pension system. No decisions have yet been made.

### Disability Living Allowance

21. **Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect on carers of proposed reductions to the disability living allowance budget. [39823]

**Maria Miller:** The Government recognise that the UK's 6 million carers play an indispensable role in looking after relatives and friends who need support.

We recognise the importance of DLA "passporting" the individual to other help and support. The detailed criteria that will be used in the new assessment to determine eligibility for personal independence payment are currently being developed. At this point the new assessment has not been finalised—the effect for carers will be determined when it is finalised.

22. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions his Department has had with disability organisations on the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance from those in residential care homes. [39824]

**Maria Miller:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Airdrie and Shotts (Pamela Nash) earlier in the Session.

### Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to establish an employers' liability insurance bureau; and if he will make a statement. [39813]

**Chris Grayling:** In February 2010 the previous Government published their consultation document, "Accessing Compensation—Supporting people who need to trace employers' liability insurance", which set out proposals for people who need to find their employers' liability insurance policies in order to claim compensation. The consultation closed on 5 May 2010. There were two proposals: First an employers' liability tracing office that would manage a database of employers' liability policies; second, an employers' liability insurance bureau, which would be a compensation fund of last resort for those individuals who are unable to trace employers' liability insurance records, ensuring they are able to receive compensation for injuries or diseases sustained during the course of their employment. We are in active discussions with all stakeholders on how this situation can be addressed and we will bring forward our proposals in due course.

### Child Support

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the behavioural effects of levying charges on parents who use the future child support scheme on (a) children living apart from one parent, (b) parents with care and (c) non-resident parents. [39082]

**Maria Miller:** The Department for Work and Pensions will produce estimates of the numbers impacted when we publish detailed proposals in the form of draft regulations later in the year. The impact assessments for the draft regulations will set out the estimated impacts on volumes and individuals.

### Children: Maintenance

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to increase the collection rate for child maintenance payments. [36407]

**Maria Miller:** On 13 January, the Government published a Green Paper, "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" outlining proposals to reform the child maintenance system.

The proposals aim to tackle the current situation, where it is estimated that there are over 3 million children in separated families, but just under 50% of them benefit from child maintenance. Research suggests that around half of the parents who use the Child Support Agency would be likely to make a family-based arrangement if they had the right support. The Government aim to do this by providing more integrated support to encourage people to make family-based arrangements, which are more flexible and collaborative and are better for children.

For those who cannot make family-based arrangements, there is and will continue to be a statutory child maintenance service. This is currently delivered by the Child Support Agency, part of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

The Commission has confirmed that, in order to improve the collection rate within the statutory service, the Child Support Agency is increasing the use of tough enforcement measures, including deducting money directly from bank accounts and seizing property and other assets. It can also apply to the courts to have culpable parents disqualified from driving and even sent to prison.

The Child Support Agency has also taken a number of steps to enhance the way it recovers arrears. This includes re-deploying over 400 members of staff into pursuing historic arrears and, when a non-resident parent misses a payment and legal action is appropriate, ensuring that this commences within 12 weeks.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of parents using Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission services as a result of his proposed reforms. [38721]

**Maria Miller:** The Department for Work and Pensions will produce estimates of the numbers impacted when we publish detailed proposals in the form of draft regulations later in the year. The impact assessments for the draft regulations will set out the estimated impacts on volumes and individuals.

### Departmental Libraries

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (a) certified and (b) chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37649]



**Chris Grayling:** The Department has not employed any certified librarians between 2000 and 2011. The chartered status of librarians employed by the Department during the same period is not held centrally. It would incur disproportionate cost to examine 11 years' worth of staff records to establish exact numbers. However, information on the chartered status of all librarians in membership of the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals (CILIP), the professional body which awards chartership following qualification and evidence of professional development, is publicly available and published in the "CILIP yearbook 2010", Facet Publishing, 2010. ISBN 9781856046787. The Department currently employs 16 librarians, of whom nine are chartered.

#### Departmental Pay

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the (a) total and (b) average salary is of staff employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department. [38409]

**Chris Grayling:** The total annual cost of fixed term appointment staff, as at 31 December 2010, was £165,955,806 with an average salary of £18,369.

As at 31 December 2010 there were 9,035 staff (FTE).

Staff were employed on fixed-term appointments to help the Department cope with an increase in customers during the height of the recession. As the height of the recession is now over, and due to public spending cuts, the Department aims to reduce the number of fixed-term appointment staff employed.

#### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on the Government car service since May 2010. [38408]

**Chris Grayling:** After the completion of a review of DWP's use of the Government Car and Despatch Agency in May 2010, a revised operating model has had a significant reduction in both the use and associated cost of the service to date.

| Period                    | Expenditure (£)/percentage |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| May 2010 to December 2010 | 233,000                    |
| May 2009 to December 2009 | 512,000                    |
| Percentage reduction      | -54                        |

The Department is reviewing all expenditure with a view to driving out inefficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on wine since May 2010. [38530]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department does not keep a separate record of expenditure on alcohol. Such expenditure is included within the hospitality account. Expenditure on alcohol and entertaining is based on the principles

set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money. Accordingly, alcohol is provided only as an exception and then only with the specific written authority of a small number of designated senior civil servants.

Total expenditure on hospitality between May 2010 and December 2010 was less than £3,000.

The Department is reviewing all expenditure with a view to driving out efficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on artwork since May 2010. [38531]

**Chris Grayling:** Works of art displayed in the Department for Work and Pensions are loaned from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published in October 2010 and are available on the GAC website:

[http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/images/documents/Reports/2009-2010\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/images/documents/Reports/2009-2010_annual_report.pdf)

There is no cost to the Department for Work and Pensions.

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pieces of artwork in his Department have been moved since May 2010. [38532]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions is not responsible for moving works of art displayed in its buildings. Art displayed is from the Government Art Collection, which is also responsible for its transportation. Details of the Government Art Collections can be found under locations on their website

<http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/>

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on redecorating ministerial offices since May 2010. [38533]

**Chris Grayling:** There has been no expenditure on redecorating ministerial offices since May 2010.

For comparison purposes, expenditure in respect of new works, refurbishments and planned maintenance to Ministers' offices in the financial year 2009-10 was £19,223.85.

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on (a) film production and (b) filming of speeches since May 2010. [38536]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department has not spent any money on either (a) film production and (b) filming of speeches since May 2010.

### Departmental Senior Civil Servants

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish details of all senior civil service staff moves, including the names and salaries of all those moving posts within or leaving his Department, since May 2010. [38406]

**Chris Grayling:** In line with the central Government's transparency agenda, the details of the senior civil service in the Department for Work and Pensions as at 30 June 2010 were published on the Department's website and the No. 10 website. The next disclosure will show details for 1 April 2011. In line with central Government policy guidance adopted under the transparency agenda, Departments are not releasing the names or banded salaries for those in the lowest (pay band 1) grade of the SCS, nor those at more senior levels who have not consented to the release of their names. In addition, the exact salary of any individual is personal data and as such cannot be released. The following is a link to the DWP transparency page:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dwp-org-charts.pdf>

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish details of all Senior Civil Service staff exits from his Department since May 2010, including contractual and non-contractual payments made. [38410]

**Chris Grayling:** Since May 2010 there have been 28 senior civil service staff exits. With the exception of seven staff who left to transfer to another Government Department, all except one were approved under contractual terms. The exception was approved at less than the approved early retirement terms then in place.

### Disability Living Allowance: Cancer

**Dame Anne Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with cancer were in receipt of (a) the care component of disability living allowance at the (i) higher rate, (ii) middle rate and (iii) lower rate and (b) the mobility component of disability living allowance at the (A) higher rate and (B) lower rate in the latest period for which figures are available. [39124]

**Maria Miller:** The available information is in the table.

| Disability living allowance in payment : Main disabling condition: Malignant disease—May 2011 |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                                                                               | Number |
| <i>Care component</i>                                                                         |        |
| All                                                                                           | 82,400 |
| Highest                                                                                       | 50,000 |
| Middle                                                                                        | 12,100 |
| Lowest                                                                                        | 15,000 |
| Nil                                                                                           | 5,300  |
| <i>Mobility component</i>                                                                     |        |
| All                                                                                           | 82,400 |
| Higher                                                                                        | 67,500 |

### Disability living allowance in payment : Main disabling condition: Malignant disease—May 2011

|       | Number |
|-------|--------|
| Lower | 4,000  |
| Nil   | 10,800 |

#### Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the WPLS.
3. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5% sample data are generally the preferred source for analysis on disabling condition as information is more complete for disabling condition on the 5% sample (Some recipients of DLA who transferred from the AA system may not have been allocated a specific disabling condition code. This problem can be corrected on the sample data but not on the WPLS data. The number of cases affected is decreasing over time).
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
5. Data are published at:  
<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>

#### Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Sample data (5%)

### Employment: Young People

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 587-88W, on jobseeker's allowance, what projection for business planning purposes his Department has made of 16 to 24-year-olds in employment in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14, (d) 2014-15, (e) 2015-16 and (f) 2016-17. [39529]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department does not produce forecasts or projections of employment for business planning purposes. The Office for Budget Responsibility publishes forecasts of employment, the most recent being in the autumn statement, but these are not broken down by age group.

### Housing Benefit

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of households in (a) London and (b) England which will have a shortfall equal to or higher than £20 per week as a result of changes to local housing allowance and the introduction of benefit capping with effect from April 2011. [40266]

**Steve Webb:** The information is in the following table.

|                                                     | London  | England |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Total number of local housing allowance claimants   | 159,370 | 839,440 |
| Number of claimants with a shortfall of £20 or more | 31,000  | 35,960  |

#### Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

#### Source:

DWP analysis of Single Housing Benefit Extract data.

The figures refer to shortfalls caused by the changes to local housing allowance rates to be introduced in April 2011. These are setting rates at the 30th percentile of local rents, the introduction of local housing allowance caps and the removal of the five bedroom local housing allowance rate.

Existing claimants will have up to nine months of transitional protection from any additional shortfall resulting from these changes following the date their claim is reviewed by the local authority, usually at the anniversary point of their claim. This means that many existing customers will not be affected until January 2012, and some will not be affected until December 2012.

#### Housing Benefit: Private Rented Housing

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of private rented properties in (a) London and (b) England rented by households in receipt of local housing allowance (LHA) which will be (i) offered to households not in receipt of LHA and (ii) reconfigured as houses in multiple occupation as a result of the proposed changes to LHA and introduction of a cap on household benefits from April 2011. [40188]

**Steve Webb:** The Department published an impact assessment for the 2011 changes to the local housing allowance arrangements on 30 November 2010, a copy of which is in the Library. In this assessment, the Department looked at the overall impact of the changes to the local housing allowance but did not include the potential behavioural impacts of either landlords or tenants as these are impossible to estimate precisely. However, the Department has widened the discretion of local authorities to make direct payments to landlords, which will encourage landlords to continue to rent their properties to housing benefit tenants.

#### Marriage

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to mark Marriage Week; and what steps the Government are taking to support marriage. [40811]

**Chris Grayling:** The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions attended the launch of Marriage Week and spoke to reaffirm the Government's commitment to stable relationships.

The Prime Minister offered the following message to mark Marriage Week:

"I am delighted to support this year's marriage week. When two people make that decision to come together and face life as a team, that provides them with a great source of strength—and all the evidence shows it's a very good thing for wider society too. That's why I think it's vital we recognise the importance of marriage and celebrate commitment."

The Prime Minister announced in December 2010 that the Government would provide £30 million for relationship support over the spending review period. A national prospectus for improving outcomes for children, young people and families was published by the Department

for Education on 22 November. This invited organisations to bid on a 'not for profit' basis for grant funding for delivering relationship support services from April 2011. Bids are currently being assessed. The Prime Minister has set up the interministerial taskforce on childhood and families, which he chairs.

The Government are looking at ways to reduce the couple penalty in the welfare system. A report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies published earlier this year indicated that the introduction of the universal credit will help meet the coalition agreement commitment to tackle the worst of the couple penalty in the tax credit system. It is also anticipated that the universal credit will, on average, reduce the couple penalty facing those on the lowest incomes.

The Government also remain committed to looking at ways to support marriage through the tax system. Proposals will be brought forward by the Chancellor at the appropriate time.

#### Mobility Support

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the mobility support requirements of people in (a) residential care and (b) hospital. [39804]

**Maria Miller:** The Department draws on a wide range of sources to inform our understanding of the needs of disabled people, including those living at home, hospital or in a residential care home. In addition, I have met with a number of disabled people and disability organisations regarding the proposed reforms to the mobility component of DLA. I have also encouraged people to put forward their views on the measure to remove the DLA mobility component from people in state-funded residential care as part of the wider consultation on DLA reform which will end on 18 February 2011.

#### Personal Income

**Mr Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average income (a) at current prices and (b) in real terms of each income decile in each year since 1981. [39951]

**Chris Grayling:** Data are not available for all years since 1981. Available data are given in the following tables. Estimates of the distribution of equivalised household disposable incomes are available in the households below average income (HBAI) series. This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. These data are at a household level.

Table 1: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income by decile. Before Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008-09, in current prices of the year in question

|              | Decile |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|--------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|              | 1      | 2  | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 1981 (UK)    | 42     | 51 | 60  | 70  | 80  | 90  | 101 | 117 | 138 | 182 |
| 1987 (UK)    | 63     | 78 | 92  | 110 | 128 | 147 | 169 | 197 | 238 | 340 |
| 1988-89 (UK) | 67     | 87 | 106 | 128 | 151 | 175 | 202 | 236 | 287 | 398 |



Table 1: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income by decile, Before Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008-09, in current prices of the year in question

|                | £      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
|                | Decile |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|                | 1      | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10    |
| 1990-91 (UK)   | 76     | 101 | 124 | 152 | 181 | 210 | 244 | 287 | 351 | 501   |
| 1991-92 (UK)   | 81     | 109 | 132 | 160 | 191 | 222 | 259 | 303 | 373 | 529   |
| 1992-93 (UK)   | 83     | 112 | 134 | 163 | 193 | 226 | 262 | 308 | 378 | 533   |
| 1993-94 (UK)   | 92     | 124 | 150 | 178 | 210 | 243 | 281 | 329 | 402 | 578   |
| 1994-95 (GB)   | 99     | 130 | 155 | 183 | 214 | 251 | 292 | 342 | 415 | 591   |
| 1995-96 (GB)   | 101    | 136 | 161 | 190 | 222 | 259 | 300 | 351 | 434 | 619   |
| 1996-97 (GB)   | 107    | 142 | 171 | 203 | 238 | 277 | 321 | 376 | 458 | 651   |
| 1997-98 (GB)   | 108    | 146 | 177 | 210 | 248 | 286 | 332 | 389 | 473 | 675   |
| 1998-99 (GB)   | 111    | 151 | 182 | 216 | 255 | 296 | 346 | 407 | 497 | 723   |
| 1999-2000 (GB) | 116    | 160 | 193 | 228 | 269 | 311 | 361 | 427 | 517 | 751   |
| 2000-01 (GB)   | 118    | 167 | 201 | 236 | 276 | 320 | 369 | 436 | 532 | 773   |
| 2001-02 (GB)   | 128    | 178 | 213 | 253 | 295 | 339 | 389 | 457 | 563 | 816   |
| 2002-03 (UK)   | 131    | 185 | 223 | 263 | 305 | 351 | 405 | 471 | 575 | 839   |
| 2003-04 (UK)   | 133    | 191 | 230 | 270 | 313 | 360 | 416 | 486 | 591 | 854   |
| 2004-05 (UK)   | 141    | 201 | 241 | 283 | 326 | 373 | 430 | 503 | 614 | 892   |
| 2005-06 (UK)   | 141    | 207 | 248 | 290 | 336 | 388 | 447 | 523 | 638 | 939   |
| 2006-07 (UK)   | 142    | 212 | 258 | 303 | 351 | 402 | 463 | 544 | 667 | 972   |
| 2007-08 (UK)   | 147    | 219 | 268 | 316 | 365 | 422 | 485 | 569 | 698 | 1,033 |
| 2008-09 (UK)   | 151    | 229 | 280 | 329 | 381 | 437 | 506 | 591 | 731 | 1,072 |

Table 2: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income by decile, After Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008-09, in current prices of the year in question

|                | £      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                | Decile |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|                | 1      | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 1981 (UK)      | 35     | 45  | 53  | 62  | 71  | 81  | 92  | 106 | 125 | 167 |
| 1987 (UK)      | 48     | 65  | 77  | 93  | 111 | 128 | 148 | 174 | 210 | 306 |
| 1988-89 (UK)   | 51     | 71  | 88  | 108 | 129 | 150 | 174 | 204 | 250 | 350 |
| 1990-91 (UK)   | 54     | 79  | 99  | 124 | 149 | 175 | 207 | 243 | 298 | 436 |
| 1991-92 (UK)   | 56     | 84  | 105 | 132 | 161 | 189 | 222 | 263 | 321 | 469 |
| 1992-93 (UK)   | 56     | 87  | 108 | 136 | 165 | 194 | 228 | 271 | 332 | 480 |
| 1993-94 (UK)   | 63     | 96  | 118 | 149 | 177 | 210 | 245 | 288 | 354 | 518 |
| 1994-95 (GB)   | 60     | 98  | 119 | 149 | 180 | 214 | 252 | 298 | 365 | 526 |
| 1995-96 (GB)   | 67     | 102 | 123 | 154 | 186 | 220 | 257 | 305 | 377 | 550 |
| 1996-97 (GB)   | 69     | 104 | 130 | 164 | 199 | 236 | 275 | 325 | 401 | 580 |
| 1997-98 (GB)   | 69     | 108 | 137 | 173 | 208 | 244 | 286 | 339 | 416 | 601 |
| 1998-99 (GB)   | 76     | 112 | 141 | 177 | 212 | 251 | 297 | 351 | 432 | 642 |
| 1999-2000 (GB) | 77     | 119 | 151 | 187 | 225 | 265 | 309 | 369 | 450 | 666 |
| 2000-01 (GB)   | 77     | 126 | 159 | 197 | 235 | 275 | 319 | 382 | 470 | 688 |
| 2001-02 (GB)   | 86     | 138 | 172 | 214 | 253 | 294 | 340 | 401 | 497 | 734 |
| 2002-03 (UK)   | 87     | 145 | 182 | 223 | 264 | 308 | 356 | 419 | 514 | 752 |
| 2003-04 (UK)   | 87     | 149 | 188 | 229 | 270 | 315 | 365 | 431 | 528 | 777 |
| 2004-05 (UK)   | 89     | 157 | 197 | 236 | 279 | 323 | 374 | 441 | 543 | 806 |
| 2005-06 (UK)   | 89     | 157 | 199 | 242 | 286 | 335 | 387 | 459 | 564 | 842 |
| 2006-07 (UK)   | 86     | 160 | 205 | 250 | 297 | 345 | 400 | 472 | 584 | 879 |
| 2007-08 (UK)   | 87     | 163 | 211 | 257 | 307 | 358 | 417 | 491 | 608 | 918 |
| 2008-09 (UK)   | 84     | 169 | 219 | 268 | 318 | 371 | 437 | 519 | 641 | 960 |

Table 3: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income by decile, Before Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008-09, in 2008-09 real terms prices

|              | £      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|              | Decile |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|              | 1      | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 1981 (UK)    | 125    | 154 | 181 | 209 | 239 | 270 | 303 | 351 | 414 | 546 |
| 1987 (UK)    | 134    | 166 | 195 | 234 | 270 | 311 | 358 | 418 | 505 | 720 |
| 1988-89 (UK) | 128    | 167 | 202 | 245 | 289 | 335 | 385 | 452 | 550 | 761 |
| 1990-91 (UK) | 125    | 166 | 205 | 251 | 298 | 347 | 403 | 474 | 579 | 826 |
| 1991-92 (UK) | 126    | 169 | 205 | 250 | 297 | 346 | 403 | 472 | 581 | 823 |
| 1992-93 (UK) | 128    | 172 | 207 | 250 | 297 | 347 | 403 | 474 | 581 | 820 |
| 1993-94 (UK) | 133    | 179 | 216 | 258 | 304 | 352 | 407 | 476 | 581 | 836 |
| 1994-95 (GB) | 137    | 180 | 215 | 254 | 298 | 348 | 406 | 476 | 576 | 822 |
| 1995-96 (GB) | 136    | 183 | 217 | 255 | 299 | 348 | 404 | 472 | 584 | 833 |
| 1996-97 (GB) | 140    | 186 | 223 | 265 | 311 | 362 | 419 | 491 | 598 | 850 |

Table 3: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income by decile, Before Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008-09, in 2008-09 real terms prices

|                | £      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
|                | Decile |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|                | 1      | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10    |
| 1997-99 (GB)   | 138    | 188 | 227 | 270 | 319 | 368 | 427 | 501 | 608 | 868   |
| 1998-99 (GB)   | 141    | 191 | 231 | 275 | 323 | 376 | 439 | 516 | 630 | 918   |
| 1999-2000 (GB) | 144    | 198 | 238 | 282 | 332 | 384 | 446 | 527 | 639 | 928   |
| 2000-01 (GB)   | 147    | 207 | 249 | 294 | 343 | 398 | 458 | 542 | 661 | 960   |
| 2001-02 (GB)   | 157    | 218 | 262 | 310 | 361 | 415 | 477 | 560 | 691 | 1,000 |
| 2002-03 (UK)   | 157    | 223 | 268 | 316 | 367 | 423 | 487 | 567 | 691 | 1,009 |
| 2003-04 (UK)   | 156    | 224 | 270 | 317 | 368 | 423 | 488 | 570 | 693 | 1,002 |
| 2004-05 (UK)   | 160    | 229 | 275 | 322 | 372 | 425 | 491 | 574 | 700 | 1,017 |
| 2005-06 (UK)   | 157    | 229 | 276 | 322 | 373 | 431 | 496 | 582 | 709 | 1,044 |
| 2006-07 (UK)   | 152    | 227 | 277 | 325 | 376 | 431 | 496 | 583 | 714 | 1,042 |
| 2007-08 (UK)   | 151    | 226 | 276 | 325 | 375 | 435 | 499 | 585 | 718 | 1,063 |
| 2008-09 (UK)   | 151    | 229 | 280 | 329 | 381 | 437 | 506 | 591 | 731 | 1,072 |

Table 4: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income by decile, After Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008-09, in 2008-09 real terms prices

|                | £      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                | Decile |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|                | 1      | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 1981 (UK)      | 93     | 120 | 141 | 165 | 189 | 213 | 242 | 280 | 331 | 440 |
| 1987 (UK)      | 93     | 125 | 148 | 179 | 213 | 246 | 285 | 335 | 405 | 590 |
| 1988-89 (UK)   | 91     | 126 | 156 | 192 | 230 | 267 | 309 | 363 | 443 | 621 |
| 1990-91 (UK)   | 85     | 124 | 156 | 194 | 235 | 275 | 325 | 382 | 467 | 685 |
| 1991-92 (UK)   | 82     | 123 | 154 | 194 | 236 | 276 | 325 | 386 | 470 | 687 |
| 1992-93 (UK)   | 80     | 124 | 154 | 194 | 235 | 277 | 326 | 387 | 473 | 685 |
| 1993-94 (UK)   | 85     | 129 | 159 | 200 | 239 | 283 | 330 | 389 | 477 | 699 |
| 1994-95 (GB)   | 78     | 126 | 155 | 193 | 233 | 277 | 326 | 386 | 472 | 682 |
| 1995-96 (GB)   | 84     | 128 | 155 | 194 | 234 | 277 | 324 | 384 | 475 | 692 |
| 1996-97 (GB)   | 85     | 129 | 160 | 203 | 246 | 291 | 340 | 402 | 495 | 717 |
| 1997-99 (GB)   | 84     | 131 | 166 | 210 | 252 | 296 | 346 | 411 | 504 | 728 |
| 1998-99 (GB)   | 91     | 135 | 170 | 214 | 256 | 303 | 358 | 423 | 522 | 774 |
| 1999-2000 (GB) | 91     | 141 | 179 | 222 | 267 | 314 | 366 | 437 | 534 | 790 |
| 2000-01 (GB)   | 92     | 150 | 189 | 234 | 280 | 327 | 380 | 455 | 560 | 819 |
| 2001-02 (GB)   | 101    | 161 | 202 | 251 | 296 | 344 | 398 | 469 | 583 | 860 |
| 2002-03 (UK)   | 101    | 167 | 210 | 257 | 305 | 356 | 411 | 484 | 594 | 869 |
| 2003-04 (UK)   | 99     | 170 | 214 | 261 | 308 | 359 | 416 | 490 | 601 | 884 |
| 2004-05 (UK)   | 100    | 177 | 221 | 266 | 313 | 363 | 421 | 495 | 610 | 906 |
| 2005-06 (UK)   | 98     | 173 | 220 | 267 | 315 | 370 | 428 | 507 | 623 | 930 |
| 2006-07 (UK)   | 92     | 171 | 220 | 268 | 318 | 370 | 429 | 506 | 626 | 933 |
| 2007-08 (UK)   | 91     | 170 | 220 | 269 | 320 | 374 | 435 | 512 | 634 | 959 |
| 2008-09 (UK)   | 84     | 169 | 219 | 268 | 318 | 371 | 437 | 519 | 641 | 960 |

## Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income.
2. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
3. Data from 1994-95 are sourced from the Family Resources Survey, with earlier data sourced from the Family Expenditure Survey.
4. FES figures are for the United Kingdom, FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 2001-02, and for the United Kingdom from 2002-03. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. FES figures are two combined calendar years from 1990-91 to 1992-93 and two financial years combined for 1993-95.
5. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
6. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living, equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
7. Median incomes have been provided rather than mean incomes because the income distribution is skewed with some outliers with high incomes. 8. Weekly incomes have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.
9. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost and an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.

## Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP.

## Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to minimise costs to individuals of applying for benefits by telephone.

[40905]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions' strategy is that telephone calls to apply for benefits or to

request emergency payments should be free, so it uses 0800 freephone numbers for these calls. It is free to call the Department's 0800 numbers from BT landlines and via nine of the UK's largest mobile phone operators, representing 95% of the mobile market. We are continuing to work with the remaining mobile phone providers to negotiate free calls to DWP 0800 numbers.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of retired (a) women and (b) men who had an entitlement to a basic state pension received less than the full amount of the pension in the last year for which figures are available.

[40912]

**Steve Webb:** The information is in the table.

*Proportion of people resident in Great Britain entitled to a basic state pension who are not getting the full amount*

|       | Total number of basic state pension recipients | Percentage of recipients getting less than a full basic state pension |
|-------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Women | 7,009,300                                      | 52.7                                                                  |
| Men   | 4,254,000                                      | 13.6                                                                  |

**Notes:**

1. Figures are as at March 2010.

2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

**Source:**

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

### TRANSPORT

#### Aviation: EC Action

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of CAP 371 flight time limitations following the European Aviation Safety Agency's publication of a notice of proposed amendment.

[37387]

**Mrs Villiers:** The European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendment contains draft implementing rules on flight time limitations. These rules are likely to be amended in the light of responses to the consultation. Once the final rules are adopted they will become directly applicable to aircraft within EASA's remit. At that point the Civil Aviation Authority's guidance in CAP 371 will be applicable only to non-EASA aircraft.

#### Bus Services: Finance

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to maintain adequate levels of bus service provision for those who commute to work by bus.

[39161]

**Norman Baker:** In London, this is matter for the Mayor and Transport for London.

Outside London, 78% of bus services are operated commercially, including those used by commuters.

Bus operators are supported by my Department through the Bus Service Operators Grant. Funding has been maintained in full in 2011-12.

Where commercial services are not viable, it is for local authorities, not central Government, to work in partnership with operators and local communities to decide how best to provide access to services for commuters in these areas. This may mean the provision of local authority tendered bus services; but it may also be that other more flexible services provided by the council or the voluntary sector are more sustainable. For instance, the Wheels to Work scheme provides a moped, electric bike or bicycle to young people to help them access employment opportunities.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the level of funding for rural bus services to be provided from the local authority funding settlement for 2011-12. [39164]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has not assessed the level of funding to be provided by local authorities for rural bus services as this will be up to individual local authorities in light of their own priorities and budgets.

78% of bus services outside London are provided by operators on a commercial basis. The Department supports these services, including those operating in rural areas, through bus service operator's grant, the funding for which has been maintained in its entirety for 2011-12.

#### Crossrail

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is his policy to consider extending the Crossrail rail into Kent in the future. [38664]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 42W.

#### Departmental Marketing

**Conor Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37235]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport incurred no expenditure in the 2009-10 financial year on the manufacture and distribution of drinks coasters carrying the Department's corporate brand.

A small amount was spent on drinks coasters carrying safety campaign brands owned by the Department, namely £5,022 on "Don't Drink and Drive" beer mats, and £2,026 on "Don't Drink and Drown" beer mats, carrying HM Coastguard and ROSPA logos.

#### Departmental NDPBs

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets have been set for the work of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [39333]

**Mike Penning:** Details of the targets that have been set for the work of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are published in the DVLA business plan. This can be found on the DVLA's website at:

[www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk)

under the heading of "publications".

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets have been set for the work of the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [39336]

**Mike Penning:** I refer the hon. Member to the targets outlined within the written statement, "Motoring and Freight Services Ministerial Targets", made on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 117WS. Copies of the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) business plan were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses on 30 March 2010.



### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each of the devolved Administrations in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39379]

**Norman Baker:** In the 2010 spending review, changes in the DEL budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett formula:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the Main and Supplementary Estimates.

### Driving Standards Agency

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of amalgamating of the Driving Standards Agency, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the Vehicle Operator Services Agency for the purposes of reducing administrative costs. [38774]

**Mike Penning:** As part of the Government's efficiency and reform agenda, we are looking at options to reduce administrative costs. The Department has already merged many of its back-office functions into a single shared services centre, including functions from Driving Standards Agency (DSA) and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

### Driving: Berwick-Upon-Tweed

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to make changes to the availability of driving tests in Berwick-upon-Tweed. [40625]

**Mike Penning:** The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has no current plans to make changes to the availability of driving tests at Berwick-upon-Tweed.

### Train Facilities

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the reliability of at-seat power sockets on carriages on Directly Operated Railways Limited East Coast rail services; and if he will make a statement. [38403]

**Mrs Villiers:** East Coast assesses the reliability of this equipment, and the socket power supply is tested as part of the routine carriage maintenance.

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions (a) he and (b) other Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the logistics industry to discuss the likely effects of scheduled fuel duty rises in the last quarter. [40349]

**Mike Penning:** Ministers meet regularly with logistic industry representatives to discuss a wide range of issues, including the effects of scheduled increases in fuel duty. Most recently, I attended the annual "Listening to Industry" event on 1 February.

### Motorways: Advertising

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with (a) the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and (b) other relevant bodies on the (i) control and (ii) regulation of advertising hoardings adjacent to motorways. [39114]

**Mike Penning:** No such discussions have taken place.

As part of the Localism Bill there are proposals to introduce measures to allow local planning authorities to remove, and then dispose of, any display structure which is in their area and which in their opinion is used for the display of unauthorised advertisements. Further, local planning authorities will be able to serve an action notice on the owner or occupier of the land in or on which there is a persistent problem with the display of unauthorised advertisements.

The Government believe that local planning authorities already have adequate powers to deal with trailer advertisements under the Control of Advertisements Regulations. Guidance is in DCLG Circular 03/2007 (Annex paragraphs 147 and 148).

### North Review of Drink and Drug Driving Law

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to respond to (a) the North review of drink and drug driving law and (b) the Transport Committee report on drink and drug driving law, Session 2010-11, HC 460. [37835]

**Mike Penning:** A full, combined response to these two reports will be published shortly.

### Railway Tracks: Sewage

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the volume of sewage discharged onto railway tracks in the latest period for which figures are available. [38143]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, my hon. Friend may wish to contact the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) at the following address to establish what information its members can provide:

ATOC Ltd  
3rd Floor  
40 Bernard Street  
London WC1N 1BY

The Department would like all passenger trains to be fitted with retention toilet systems, an aspiration that is fully supported by the wider rail industry. However, this will take time to deliver given its reliance on the introduction of new trains, which are all fitted with retention toilets, and the extent to which such systems can be retrofitted to older fleets.

#### Train Facilities

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the role of providing on-board facilities, including power sockets and wi-fi, on inter-city rail services in encouraging a modal shift away from the use of domestic flights; and if he will make a statement. [38404]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport acknowledges that the provision of on-board facilities

on inter-city rail services, including power sockets and wi-fi, is attractive to many passengers and may encourage modal shift. However, it is for train operators to decide if there is sufficient value and benefit to passengers to warrant the provision of these facilities on their services.

#### Road Fund Licences

**Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of road fund licences were issued (a) by the Post Office and (b) in response to an online application in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2010. [39896]

**Mike Penning:** The following table shows the breakdown of road fund licences issued by the Post Office and online. Road fund licences are also issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) local offices and through an electronic link with fleet operators. Figures for these channels are also included.

|                    | 2007       |            | 2008       |            | 2010       |            |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                    | Volume     | Percentage | Volume     | Percentage | Volume     | Percentage |
| Post Office        | 29,463,154 | 68.9       | 26,922,581 | 61.4       | 22,429,894 | 52.1       |
| Online             | 10,977,240 | 25.7       | 14,453,588 | 33.0       | 18,359,727 | 42.7       |
| DVLA Local Offices | 1,243,048  | 2.9        | 1,198,009  | 2.7        | 1,088,809  | 2.5        |
| Fleets             | 1,088,308  | 2.5        | 1,243,424  | 2.8        | 1,168,431  | 2.7        |

#### Roads: Safety

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's decision to reduce the area-based road safety grant. [37834]

**Mike Penning:** The Government have removed ring-fencing from local authority grants so that councils are able to set their own priorities. Extra funding support for road safety is now being provided in the revenue support grant. I would expect road safety to remain a priority for local communities and for local spending to reflect that.

The Government will shortly publish their draft road safety strategy for consultation.

#### Sea Rescue

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the incidents handled by HM Coastguard in the UK search and rescue region in the last three years were initiated by (a) digital selective calling and (b) a call on VHF channel 16. [39733]

**Mike Penning:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency could gather the data you have requested only at a

disproportionate cost. It is not recorded in a readily accessible format and would require a manual check of all incidents.

#### Shipping: Pay

**Andrew Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on steps to equalise differential pay for seafarers working on UK registered ships. [41130]

**Mike Penning:** I will be introducing affirmative regulations under the Equality Act 2010 very shortly.

These regulations will specify how Part 5 of the Equality Act 2010 applies to work on ships and hovercraft, and seafarers; and will also bring the UK law on seafarers differential pay in to line with EU law.

It is my intention to legislate in a way that minimises to the greatest extent possible the potential threat to the UK flag.

#### Southeastern Rail Services

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail services operated by Southeastern have been cancelled in each year of the current franchise agreement. [38285]

**Mrs Villiers:** The information requested is given in the following table:

|                          | Trains planned | Trains cancelled | Percentage cancelled |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 570,237        | 5,227            | 0.9                  |
| April 2007 to March 2008 | 580,260        | 5,102            | 0.9                  |
| April 2008 to March 2009 | 590,435        | 7,326            | 1.2                  |

|                             | Trains planned | Trains cancelled | Percentage cancelled |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| April 2009 to March 2010    | 604,972        | 9,653            | 1.6                  |
| April 2010 to December 2010 | 464,603        | 5,079            | 1.1                  |

Period 9 2010-11 (14 November to 11 December 2010) is the latest for which data are available.



#### Travel: Costs

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by (a) private car, (b) bus, (c) train and (d) domestic aeroplane since (i) 1980 and (ii) 1997. [36672]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has not estimated changes in the real cost of motoring or any other mode of travel.

Data from the independent ONS suggest that between 1980 and 2010 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 10%, bus and coach fares increased by 54% and rail fares increased by 55% in real terms.

ONS data suggest that between 1997 and 2010 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 7%, bus and coach fares increased by 24% and rail fares increased by 17% in real terms.

Figures from the Office of Rail Regulation's national rail trends show that between 1985 and 2010 total government support to the rail industry has doubled in real terms, and that between 1997 and 2010 it increased by 86% in real terms. 1985 is the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

The costs of travelling by air are not available from ONS data. However, the cost of the average UK one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic flights fell by 35% in real terms between 1997 and 2008, the latest date for which figures are available:

[http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/xls/nrt\\_ch6\\_miscellaneous\\_tables.xls](http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/xls/nrt_ch6_miscellaneous_tables.xls)

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in real terms of the cost of travelling by (a) private car, (b) bus, (c) train and (d) domestic air flight between (i) 1980 and 2010 and (ii) 2000 and 2010. [37928]

**Norman Baker [holding answer 9 February 2011]:** I have not estimated changes to the real cost of motoring or any other mode of travel.

Data from the independent ONS suggests that between 1980 and 2010 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 10%, bus and coach fares increased by 54% and rail fares increased by 55% in real terms.

ONS data suggest that between 2000 and 2010 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 8%, bus and coach fares increased by 15% and rail fares increased by 20% in real terms.

Figures from the Office of Rail Regulation's national rail trends, see:

[http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/xls/nrt\\_ch6\\_miscellaneous\\_tables.xls](http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/xls/nrt_ch6_miscellaneous_tables.xls)

show that between 1985 and 2010 total Government support to the rail industry has doubled in real terms, and that between 2000 and 2010 it has more than doubled in real terms. 1985 is the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

The costs of travelling by air are not available from ONS data. However, the average cost of a one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic flights fell by 34% in real terms between 2000 and 2008, the latest date for which figures are available.

#### UN Decade of Road Safety

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to mark the launch of the UN Decade of Road Safety on 11 May 2011. [37838]

**Mike Penning:** Ministers are planning to participate in events organised by road safety groups to mark the launch of the UN Decade of Road Safety on 11 May.



#### DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

##### House of Lords: Reform

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to publish a draft Bill on reform of the House of Lords. [39898]

**Mr Harper:** The cross-party Committee which the Deputy Prime Minister chairs, and of which the right hon. Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan) is a member, is considering proposals for a wholly or mainly elected second chamber. The Government will publish a draft Bill early this year. The Bill will then be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny. The Government hope that this will be carried out by a joint committee of both Houses.

#### DEFENCE

##### Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Jim Dobbins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many court martials for malingering there have been since the Armed Forces Act 2006 came into force; and how many of those charged with the offence were under the age of 18. [38277]

**Mr Robathan [holding answer 9 February 2011]:** One individual has been court martialled for malingering since the Armed Forces Act 2006 came into force. Additionally, a preliminary court martial hearing is due to convene shortly to discuss one count of malingering. Neither of the individuals involved are under 18 years of age.



### Armed Forces: Finance

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the funding settlement under the comprehensive spending review to meet the objectives of the Future Force 2020 Model set out in the strategic defence and security review. [39349]

**Dr Fox:** The spending review sets out the Ministry of Defence's core budget for the next four years. The budget for the spending review period includes ambitious but achievable targets for delivering non front-line and efficiency savings of some £4.3 billion over the next four years. We are determined to deliver these. This period is the start of a process to bring the defence budget back into balance. As we are continuing to develop and refine our strategic defence and security review (SDSR) implementation plans, it is not sensible to speculate about the overall cost of the future defence programme.

Funding after 2015 will be an issue for the next spending review. In announcing the SDSR on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-826, the Prime Minister was clear that his own strong view was that there would need to be real terms growth in the defence budget in the years beyond the current spending review to make Future Force 2020 affordable.

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on standards of medical care received by armed forces personnel. [40491]

**Mr Robathan:** The strategic defence and security review, undertaken as part of the comprehensive spending review, included a commitment to maintain and further develop the medical support provided by the defence medical services and the NHS. Specifically, it committed an additional £20 million per year for the provision of health care to service personnel. Plans have yet to be finalised but this funding is likely to be applied mostly to providing additional health care personnel, including enhancements to mental health provision, rehabilitation units and at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of his Department's housing information centre in Osbaldwick, York. [39864]

**Mr Robathan:** The future provision of housing services for armed forces personnel and their families, including the role and responsibilities of all seven regional housing information centres, are currently under consideration as part of the ongoing work following up the strategic defence and security review, and reflecting the next estate generation contracts programme.

For that reason, it is too early to give an indication of the potential impact of this ongoing work on the housing information centre at Osbaldwick, York.

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with Ministers in (a) the Scottish Executive, (b) the Welsh Assembly Government and (c) the Northern Ireland Executive on the implementation of the aspects of the military covenant relating to (i) housing and (ii) education; and on what dates such discussions took place. [40449]

**Mr Robathan [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** While no meetings have taken place with Ministers of the devolved Administrations specifically to discuss the implementation of the armed forces covenant, the Ministry of Defence maintains a close dialogue with their officials. For example, the external reference group, which delivers independent judgment on the Government's efforts in supporting the armed forces, families and veterans, includes representatives from the devolved Administrations.

### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces pension scheme there are. [40117]

**Mr Robathan:** The number of members of the armed forces pension scheme (AFPS) can be found on pages eight to 10 of the AFPS Resource Accounts for financial year 2009-10, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

### Body Armour

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to improve the quality of body armour procured by his Department. [40317]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence buys body armour on a continual basis as the operational need arises. Osprey body armour was introduced in 2006 and has undergone a number of refinements and improvements since, culminating in the current Mk 4 Osprey. Osprey Mk 4 provides a high level of protection against small arms and fragmentation threats and is ergonomically designed and lighter than previous versions of Osprey.

The next planned update to body armour will be through the VIRTUS programme, which is currently in its assessment phase. Meanwhile Osprey will continue to develop in light of operational feedback and outputs from ongoing research.

### Civilian Personnel Reductions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 584, on civilian personnel reductions, on how many occasions since assuming office in 2010 he has met representatives from the PCS union; what future meetings he plans to hold with the PCS union on civilian personnel reductions in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [39786]

**Mr Robathan:** The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), met with the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and the other Ministry of Defence recognised trade unions on 2 September 2010 when the potential

for civilian reductions was discussed in advance of the strategic defence and security review announcement. At that meeting it was agreed that a Minister should be appointed to lead engagement with the Trade Unions on civilian issues. I have taken on this responsibility.

The Secretary of State is scheduled to attend a further meeting with the Trade Unions (including PCS) on 28 February, which I will also attend. This meeting will specifically discuss the civilian workforce reductions.

There is also an ongoing dialogue between officials and the recognised departmental trade unions over the implementation of the civilian reductions.

#### Defence: Exports

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to promote UK defence exports to international partners. [39313]

**Mr Gerald Howarth:** This Government are supporting defence exports through an active and innovative defence diplomacy initiative. Ministry of Defence (MOD) Ministers are actively promoting defence exports to international partners. The Prime Minister has stated that any Government Minister travelling overseas should promote the best that Britain has to offer, including in defence and security. We recognise the important contribution defence exports can make in supporting our key strategic relationships. Exports can also help to maintain the UK's defence and aerospace industry, which employs 300,000 people, many of whom are highly skilled. Defence exports could help to reduce the cost to the taxpayer of MOD acquisition programmes through longer production runs, sharing of overheads on defence industrial facilities and contributing to development costs.

The Defence and Security Industrial Technology Paper contains a section on defence exports. I strongly encourage anyone who has a view on these issues to contribute to the debate as part of the public consultation process, which continues until 30 March 2011.

We are embedding exportability in the design stage of the procurement process. By offering partnerships when designing equipment, we can consider different capability requirements, thus increasing export opportunities. We are currently in discussions with a number of nations regarding the Global Combat Ship new frigate, and opportunities to work with them to develop this capability.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence has recently set up the Defence Exports Working Group which brings together Ministers and senior officials from across Government to plan and focus support to defence exports.

#### Defence: Procurement

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on increasing the diversity of the UK defence market. [39314]

**Peter Luff:** The Government published a Green Paper in December 2010 on 'Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security: a Consultation Paper', copies of which are available in the Library of the House. This started a period of formal consultation on issues such as research priorities, intellectual property,

support to exports and the role of small and medium enterprises. The outcomes of the current consultation process on the Green Paper will be taken forward in a White Paper, which will be published later this year.

#### Departmental Correspondence

**Gemma Doyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long on average it has taken to respond to correspondence addressed to each Minister who has held office in his Department in each year since 2001. [40786]

**Mr Robathan:** The information is not held in the format requested.

The Cabinet Office publishes on an annual basis a report on Departments' and agencies' performance on handling ministerial correspondence, and the report for 2010 will be published once figures have been collated. Performance statistics for 2009 were published on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 47WS.

#### Departmental Energy

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has saved in (a) energy costs and (b) carbon dioxide emissions since the introduction of real time energy displays. [39631]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) real time display data show electricity, gas and heating energy usage for MOD main building only. The displays went live during the period 7 to 29 July 2010. During the period from 1 August 2010 to 28 January 2011, savings of £144,000 had been made compared to energy usage for the same period during the year 2009-10, which represents an equivalent carbon dioxide saving of 1.03 million kg.

#### Departmental Responsibilities

**Gemma Doyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans last met representatives of the (a) Navy Families Federation, (b) Army Families Federation and (c) RAF Families Federation. [40785]

**Mr Robathan:** I met representatives of all three Families Federations on 8 February 2011. This was one of the regular 'Families Forum' meetings which enable the three Federations to raise issues directly with Ministers. I also met all three on 10 February 2011.

#### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the development of Iran's heavy water research reactor. [38979]

**Dr Fox:** Iran is constructing a 40 megawatt heavy water reactor near Arak. Iran says this reactor, also known as the IR-40, is primarily intended for medical purposes. This type of reactor could also be used for plutonium production, and the UN has assessed the heavy water research reactor programme as proliferation sensitive. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

has confirmed that construction is continuing in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions (most recently UNSCR 1929 of 2010), which require that Iran suspend its proliferation sensitive uranium enrichment and heavy water-related projects. The UK continues to implement all UN Security Council resolutions relating to Iran and shares the concerns of the IAEA.

#### **Military Aircraft: Helicopters**

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he intends to publish the refreshed Rotary Wing Strategy; and if he will place a copy in the Library on publication; [40797]

(2) what timetable his Department has set for completion of the refreshed Rotary Wing Strategy. [40798]

**Peter Luff:** The Rotary Wing Strategy will be revised in line with the strategic defence and security review and the results of the Department's annual planning round, which is expected to conclude in spring 2011. Any

significant further changes to the Rotary Wing Strategy that arise as a result of the planning round will be announced to Parliament in the normal way.

#### **Trident Replacement Submarines**

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 581, on Trident replacement submarines, what proportion of the costs of the (a) first, (b) second and (c) third new submarine will have been (i) spent and (ii) committed by 7 May 2015. [39649]

**Dr Fox:** The initial gate business case for the assessment phase of the programme to replace the Trident submarines is currently being reviewed. During this assessment phase we would expect to order certain parts for up to three boats to ensure they are ready for use once the main construction phase begins after main gate in 2016. However, until the assessment phase programme has been approved, it is not possible to confirm the value of these parts.



## Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 15 February 2011

### HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

#### Real-time Energy Consumption

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the Commission has plans to publish data on the real-time energy consumption of the Commons estate online.

[39492]

**John Thurso:** The Parliamentary Estates Directorate is looking at options for displaying real-time data on energy use online, and on display screens within buildings on the parliamentary estate. Once a preferred scheme has been identified a proposal will be submitted to the Administration Committee.

### SCOTLAND

#### Equality and Human Rights Commission

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with (a) the Equality and Human Rights Commission, (b) the Scottish Executive and (c) voluntary organisations in Scotland on the proposed closure of the Equality and Human Rights Commission advice helpline and the termination of its grant programme.

[41076]

**Michael Moore:** Following my appointment as Secretary of State I met Kallian Lyle, the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Scotland Commissioner and discussed a range of matters. I will continue to meet representatives of the Commission where appropriate.

My officials are in regular contact with the Government Equalities Office in connection with the forthcoming consultation on reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, in light of the outcome of the Government's review of public bodies announced in October 2010.

### NORTHERN IRELAND

#### Aviation

**Dr Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will discuss with (a) the Secretary of State for Transport and (b) BAA the effect on air passengers travelling to and from Northern Ireland of the decision to increase passenger charges at Heathrow Airport for such travel.

[41131]

**Mr Paterson:** I fully understand the concerns that have been expressed about the impact on Northern Ireland of changes in charging at Heathrow. Given its significance to the travelling public in Northern Ireland who fly into Heathrow, I shall bring this matter to the

attention of the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond). The hon. Member may wish to do likewise in respect of BAA.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year.

[40520]

**Mr Paterson:** All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006 through the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility, in partnership with Buying Solutions, the UK Government's procurement agency.

From figures available, the Department spent the following amounts for carbon offsetting:

|         | £      |
|---------|--------|
| 2006-07 | 11,385 |
| 2007-08 | 6,339  |
| 2008-09 | 6,448  |
| 2009-10 | —      |

<sup>1</sup> Figures currently unavailable.

### CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

#### Broadband: Wales

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what further allocations of funding for superfast broadband he plans to make to Wales.

[41161]

**Mr Vaizey:** Consideration of further allocations of funds to support projects will be made by Broadband Delivery UK following submission of broadband plans.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available.

[38957]

**John Penrose** [holding answer 9 February 2011]: Latest figures published on DCMS communications staff were supplied to the Cabinet Office for the Operational Efficiency Programme benchmarking for 2009-10. This information is available at:

<http://data.gov.uk/dataset/oep-benchmarking-data-2009-10>

The Department is committed to reduce its administrative budget by 50% over the period of the comprehensive spending review. That will include a reduction in its communications headcount.

### Hearing Impairment

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received from the deaf community in the last 12 months. [39559]

**Mr Vaizey:** In the last 12 months the Department has received representations from various members of the deaf community about TV licences, subtitle and telecom services and support for people who are deaf, or hard of hearing, in film and sport.

### Public Libraries

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of local libraries to the Government's big society initiative. [40198]

**Mr Vaizey:** The big society is particularly relevant to library services as the needs of the community are at the heart of their provision. We have seen the number of people volunteering in libraries increasing to deliver homework clubs, digitisation projects and 'buddy support' for people new to computers in libraries, among other things.

Libraries provide books and other services which help people learn, empower them, and make contact with other community members. Library services have a vital role in reaching out and engaging with communities, delivering the big society in which citizens have a more active role in shaping public services and what they deliver.

I hosted a roundtable on the theme of 'libraries and the big society' last month. A number of local and national government officials and civil sector partners attended the event which explored how libraries can help to achieve the big society vision.

### Sign Language

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what relay services are available for users of British Sign Language. [39556]

**Mr Vaizey:** There is limited availability of video relay services for British Sign Language users on a commercial basis in the UK. For example, Significan't, based in the London area and Deaf Connections, based in Glasgow.

Specific arrangements which provide for disabled users of electronic communications networks are mandated under the Universal Service Order 2003 and section 67 of the Communications Act 2003 which empowers Ofcom to set General Condition 15 ("Special Measures for end-users with Disabilities") of the Consolidated Version of the General Conditions (18 March 2010) on the providers of universal telecommunications services in the UK for deaf and hard of hearing users.

These arrangements currently mandate the requirement of, for example, a text relay service and a priority fault repair service.

Officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are currently implementing revisions to the EU Electronic Communications Framework, including a new article 23a, in the revised Universal Services Directive (USD) which is intended to ensure equivalence in access and choice for disabled end-users.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Community Development

**Kris Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent promoting community cohesion in each of the last three years. [40213]

**Andrew Stunell:** Funding for community cohesion work from 2008-09 to 2010-11 was provided to local authorities via unring-fenced Area Based Grant and to community and voluntary organisations through specific grants programmes.

The following table shows the Department's total cohesion spend for each financial year from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

| <i>Community cohesion funding spend</i> |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|
|                                         | <i>£ million</i> |
| 2008-09                                 | 8.7              |
| 2009-10                                 | 27.7             |
| 2010-11                                 | 20.8             |
| Total                                   | 57.2             |

### Community Development: Greater London

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding London local authorities have received from his Department for community cohesion projects in each of the last three years. [40556]

**Andrew Stunell:** Between 2008-09 and 2010-11, around £2.2 million funding was paid to London boroughs to support work on community cohesion. This breaks down as follows:

|         | <i>£100</i> |
|---------|-------------|
| 2008-09 | 572         |
| 2009-10 | 1,050       |
| 2010-11 | 572         |

### Local Government Finance: South West England

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding per capita (a) Devon county council, (b) Cornwall county council, (c) Dorset county council and (d) Somerset county council received from his Department in 2009-10. [40154]

**Robert Neill:** The following table sets out the funding per capita for both the Department for Communities and Local Government funding and local government funding for the named authorities in 2009-10.

| 2009-10 funding per capita |                       |                                                         |     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                            |                       | £                                                       |     |
| Type of authority          |                       | Department for Communities and Local Government funding |     |
|                            |                       | Local government funding                                |     |
| Cornwall                   | All purpose authority | 403                                                     | 103 |
| Devon                      | Shire county          | 225                                                     | 74  |
| Dorset                     | Shire county          | 169                                                     | 65  |
| Somerset                   | Shire county          | 200                                                     | 76  |

Figures for Shire counties exclude funding for district councils within their county area.

#### Members: Correspondence

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) of 19 January on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. [40818]

**Grant Shapps:** I replied to the right hon. Member on 2 February 2011.

As this issue is of broader public interest, I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

#### HOME DEPARTMENT

##### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued by each police authority area for each (a) age group and (b) gender in each of the last 14 years. [40631]

**James Brokenshire:** Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available to courts in England and Wales from 1 April 1999 and data on orders issued are collected at Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. CJS areas are coterminous with police force areas.

The latest published data on ASBOs covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2009. ASBO data are broken down by age groups 10 to 17 and 18 and over, and by gender. No age or gender details are available for ASBOs issued prior to 1 June 2000. The information requested is shown in the tables placed in the House Library.

##### Asylum: Sexuality

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people of each country of origin claiming asylum on the basis of their sexuality have been (a) refused and (b) granted leave to remain since July 2010; [41014]

(2) how many people claimed asylum on the basis of their sexuality in the last 12 months; and how many such applications were refused. [41015]

**Damian Green:** The information requested in the questions is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and can only be obtained through examination of individual case records at a disproportionate cost.

#### Crime

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 55W, on crime, if she will take steps to collect crime data at (a) street and (b) ward level for each category of crime for each of the last five years. [39912]

**James Brokenshire:** From the end of January, communities have had access to street-level crime data and maps through the following website:

[www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Data are also available on this website at neighbourhood level (which is often the same as ward level). The Home Office has no plans to retrospectively collect recorded crime data at street or ward level.

Home Office Statistics do give access to historical data at local authority level at:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/soti.html>

#### Crime Prevention: Young People

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the likely effect of changes to the level of grants to local authorities on funding of voluntary organisations working with young people to stop their involvement in knife and gang violence. [40235]

**James Brokenshire:** The coalition Government are committed to fighting knife, gang and gun related violence.

I announced on 2 February that the Home Office will provide £18 million of funding between 2011 and 2013, to prevent gang and knife related violence and youth crime. At least £14 million of that funding will be provided to voluntary organisations working with young people to stop their involvement in knife, gang and gun violence and other youth crime.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department (a) has allocated to the Positive Futures programme in the last five years and (b) plans to allocate in the next five years. [40799]

**James Brokenshire** [holding answer 14 February 2011]: The total funding allocated to the Positive Futures programme in the last five years was as follows:

|         | £ million |
|---------|-----------|
| 2006-07 | 5.8       |
| 2007-08 | 6         |
| 2008-09 | 6         |
| 2009-10 | 5.96      |
| 2010-11 | 6         |

The Home Office has announced funding of £10 million for the Positive Futures programme over the next two financial years. Funding beyond this will be decided within the overall spending review settlement for the Home Office.



### Crimes of Violence: Arrests

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made for a crime of violence against the person in (a) London and (b) England and Wales in each year since 2003; and how many such arrests led to a charge. [40426]

**James Brokenshire:** The information requested on arrests is provided in the following table.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The collection does not include information on the outcome of an arrest, so it is not possible to provide statistics on the number of arrests that led to a charge.

Data on arrests for 2009-10 are due to be published in April 2011.

|                     | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| City of London      | 405     | 635     | 977     | 1,213   | 1,096   | 929     |
| Metropolitan police | 36,850  | 44,248  | 54,018  | 62,540  | 64,540  | 71,614  |
| London total        | 37,255  | 44,883  | 54,995  | 63,753  | 65,636  | 72,543  |
| England and Wales   | 332,100 | 395,200 | 447,357 | 587,569 | 477,743 | 464,120 |

*Persons arrested for crimes of violence against the person, 2003-04 to 2008-09*

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40525]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office has participated in the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility to offset emissions from administrative travel since 2006. A breakdown of costs over the last three years and the companies to which payments were made, is in the following table.

Further information on the offsetting facility is available on the Department for Climate Change and Energy's website at:

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what\\_we\\_do/lc\\_uk/co2\\_offsetting/gov\\_offsetting/gov\\_data/gov\\_data.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/co2_offsetting/gov_offsetting/gov_data/gov_data.aspx)

HO administrative air travel offsetting data for the years requested are as follows:

|         | Companies             | Cost of offsets (£) |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2007-08 | Trading Emissions plc | 30,368.63           |
| 2008-09 | Trading Emissions plc | 29,119.81           |
| 2009-10 | EDF Trading           | 56,663.20           |

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much Barnett consequential funding her Department has provided to each of the devolved administrations in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39382]

**Damian Green:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the DEL budgets of the devolved administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula.

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved administrations is published alongside the main and supplementary estimates.

### Detention Centres: Children

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children have been detained in immigration removal centres other than Tinsley House and Yarl's Wood since 16 December 2010; [39729]

(2) how many children have been detained in Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre since 16 December 2010. [39730]

**Damian Green** [holding answer 14 February 2011]: No children have been detained at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre since 16 December 2010.

No children have been detained in immigration removal centres other than Tinsley House and Yarl's Wood since 16 December 2010.

On 16 December 2010 the Deputy Prime Minister announced a new package to deliver the Coalition Government's commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes and the immediate closure of the family unit to children at the Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre.

The Home Office publishes National Statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers. These can be found at:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html)

### DNA: Databases

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether (a) DNA and (b) fingerprint data of those detained under the provisions of Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 but subsequently found innocent are retained. [38611]

**Nick Herbert:** We remain committed to ensuring an appropriate balance is struck between the powers of the state and individuals' civil liberties.

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is a national security border power which enables the police and UK Border Agency to combat the threat to the UK and its interests by examining individuals (that is, to stop, question and search) as they travel through the country's

ports and borders, to determine if they are involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

At present, the law permits the indefinite retention of biometric material (i.e. DNA samples, profiles and fingerprints etc.) including from those persons detained under schedule 7.

We are committed to adopting the protections of the Scottish model. In fulfilling that commitment, we have made provision for the retention of biometric material for national security (including counter-terrorism) purposes in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, which will cover material obtained from persons detained under schedule 7 of the 2000 Act.

#### Drugs: Misuse

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will publish her Department's protocol with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; and if she will make a statement; [40583]

(2) what steps she is taking to educate the public on the dangers of poly substance abuse in order to reduce drug-related crime; and if she will make a statement; [40587]

(3) when she expects to receive the report from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs working party on treatment outcomes; and if she will make a statement; [40588]

(4) what steps she is taking to increase public awareness on the dangers of psychoactive drugs in order to reduce levels of drug-related crime; and if she will make a statement; [40589]

(5) what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the role of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in producing public health messages about the dangers of drug abuse. [40590]

James Brokenshire: The Working Protocol is being prepared in concert with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). The draft will be made available to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility (PRSR) Bill Committee and the Lords to inform their consideration of clauses 149 and 150 of the PRSR Bill. When it is finalised the Working Protocol will be placed in the House Library.

The 2010 drug strategy, published on 8 December 2010, acknowledges that poly substance abuse is increasingly the norm among drug misusers. It is one of the key reasons why it made sense to bring together the response to severe alcohol dependency and drug misuse into one strategy. We will educate the public on the dangers of poly substance abuse through the FRANK service, which since 2005 has been offering a universally accessible service for anyone wanting help, information or advice on drug issues. The service is available by phone, on the web or by email and can also put people in touch with local services in their area and send out free information materials. FRANK also provides partners (e.g. schools, youth services and charities) and local services with an effective means to engage with young people through the distribution of leaflets and classroom packs to deliver drugs education.

Schools, colleges, universities, and other education providers have a key role to play in raising awareness as they work with millions of young people and young adults at a critical time in their lives. The new drug strategy outlines how students should have ready access to the advice and support that they need as part of wider health and welfare services.

I recently wrote to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)—see my letter of 2 February, available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/hs-acmd-priorities-2011-2012?view=Binary>

and made reference to its forthcoming report inquiry into treatment. I understand that the ACMD has made good progress with its evidence gathering for the inquiry and I have requested an update to officials at the ACMD's April Council meeting. The timing of the delivery of the report is a matter for the ACMD. I understand from the ACMD Chair that the report should be available by the autumn.

The new drug strategy acknowledges that poly substance abuse is increasingly the norm among drug misusers. It is one of the key reasons why it made sense to bring together the response to severe alcohol dependency and drug misuse into one strategy. The FRANK service will continue to provide accurate and reliable information on the dangers of all drugs, including when more than one substance, including alcohol, is used. Schools, colleges, universities, and other education providers have a key role to play in raising awareness as they work with millions of young people and young adults at a critical time in their lives. The new drug strategy outlines how students should have ready access to the advice and support that they need as part of wider health and welfare services.

The duties of the ACMD are set out in the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971). In discharging those duties the ACMD has a responsibility to advise Ministers on measures "...which in the opinion of the Council, ought to be taken for educating the public (and in particular the young) in the dangers of misusing such drugs, and for giving publicity to those dangers". It is entirely appropriate that the ACMD does, and will continue to, provide Ministers with advice that informs our public health messages.

#### Drugs: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the long-term trends in the use of (a) opiates and (b) crack cocaine by persons aged between 15 and 24. [40363]

James Brokenshire: The British Crime Survey (BCS) is used to measure trends in drug use among people aged 16 to 59 resident in households in England and Wales. There was no statistically significant change in the proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds reporting the use of either opiates or crack cocaine in the last year between the 1996 BCS and the 2009-10 BCS.

Trends in opiate and crack cocaine use among those aged 16 to 24 from the BCS are included in the following table.

Table 1: Proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds reporting use of drugs in the last year, 1996 to 2009-10 BCS—England and Wales

|                              | 1996  | 1998  | 2000  | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 <sup>1</sup> | Statistically significant change |                    |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
|                              |       |       |       |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                      | 1996 to 2009-10                  | 2008-09 to 2009-10 |
| Crack cocaine (%)            | 0.2   | 0.3   | 0.9   | 0.5     | 0.5     | 0.4     | 0.1     | 0.4     | 0.4     | 0.2     | 0.2                  | 2_                               | 3_                 |
| Opiates (%)                  | 0.4   | 0.8   | 0.8   | 0.3     | 0.2     | 0.5     | 0.2     | 0.2     | 0.2     | 0.2     | 0.0                  | 2_                               | 3_                 |
| Unweighted base <sup>4</sup> | 1,420 | 1,246 | 1,468 | 3,995   | 4,227   | 5,351   | 6,196   | 5,892   | 5,706   | 5,767   | 5,428                | 2_                               | 2_                 |

<sup>1</sup> BCS estimates from interviews in 2008-09 have been revised based on revised LFS microdata and may vary slightly from previously published estimates. See Sections 8.3 and 9.3 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics for more information.

<sup>2</sup> No statistically significant change.

<sup>3</sup> A statistically significant increase.

<sup>4</sup> Base numbers relate to any drug use. Bases for other drug measures will be similar. Between 2001-02 and 2008-09 the BCS sample included a young adult boost (see Section 9.2 of the User Guide for more information).

### Electronic Surveillance

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to respond to her Department's public consultation on changes to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [41069]

**Nick Herbert:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced the Government's proposals in this area last month, 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 306-26. Copies of the review findings and recommendations (Cm 8004) have been placed in the House Library.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Conor Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from outside the EU were granted visas to study at a higher education institution (a) awarded and (b) not awarded highly trusted status by the UK Border Agency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [40300]

**Damian Green:** Information about visas issued for study at all institutions of higher education is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. However, the estimated total number of student visas issued in the 12 months in 2009 to non-EEA nationals for study at universities, of which all but three hold Highly Trusted Status, was 133,000.

#### Notes:

1. The figures include visas issued under both (a) Tier 4 of the Points Based System and (b) the former provision in the Immigration Rules for students, where the application was lodged before 31 March 2009.

2. This information is based on a sample of Management Information. It is provisional and subject to change.

3. The data excludes dependents, sponsored students and child students.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to reduce the number of those entering the country on a student visa who settle in the UK permanently. [40883]

**Damian Green:** The Government's consultation on proposals to reform the student immigration system closed on 31 January. One of the proposals in the consultation sought views on how to ensure students

return overseas on completion of their courses, rather than remain in the UK for extended periods, eventually becoming eligible to apply for settlement. We are currently considering the responses we received to the consultation and will publish the findings in due course.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the new student visitor visa scheme on the capacity of language schools to provide relevant courses. [40884]

**Damian Green:** The new student visitor visa scheme, enabling non-EEA students to study English language for up to 11 months, was introduced on 10 January. No formal assessment has been completed. However, we will closely monitor this route and keep it under constant review.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entered the UK on student and student family member visas in (a) 2000 to 2009 and (b) 1990 to 1999. [40885]

**Damian Green:** The available statistics on the number of persons given leave to enter the United Kingdom as students, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 1990 to 2009, are given in the following table.

It must be noted that there are discontinuities in the time series of this data due to student dependant figures not being available prior to 2004 and the introduction of the student visitor category in 2007.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

Passengers<sup>1</sup>: given leave to enter the United Kingdom for the purpose of study excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 1990-2009

|      | Total   | Students | Number of journeys |                                 |                               |
|------|---------|----------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|      |         |          | Tier 4 students    | Student dependents <sup>2</sup> | Student visitors <sup>3</sup> |
| 1990 | 202,000 | 202,000  | 5_                 | n/a                             | 5_                            |
| 1991 | 202,000 | 202,000  | 5_                 | n/a                             | 5_                            |
| 1992 | 222,000 | 222,000  | 5_                 | n/a                             | 5_                            |



Passengers<sup>1, 2</sup> given leave to enter the United Kingdom for the purpose of study excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 1990-2009

|                   | Total   | Students | Tier 4 students | Number of journeys              |                               |
|-------------------|---------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                   |         |          |                 | Student dependents <sup>3</sup> | Student visitors <sup>4</sup> |
| 1993              | 238,000 | 238,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 1994              | 249,000 | 249,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 1995              | 285,000 | 285,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 1996              | 298,000 | 298,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 1997              | 278,000 | 278,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 1998              | 266,000 | 266,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 1999              | 272,000 | 272,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 2000              | 312,000 | 312,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 2001              | 339,000 | 339,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 2002              | 369,000 | 369,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 2003              | 319,000 | 319,000  | 3               | n/a                             | 3                             |
| 2004              | 307,000 | 294,000  | 3               | 13,100                          | 3                             |
| 2005              | 297,000 | 284,000  | 3               | 13,200                          | 3                             |
| 2006              | 326,000 | 309,000  | 3               | 17,000                          | 3                             |
| 2007              | 378,000 | 358,000  | 3               | 17,100                          | 3,400                         |
| 2008              | 391,000 | 227,000  | 3               | 20,300                          | 143,000                       |
| 2009 <sup>5</sup> | 489,000 | 82,100   | 188,000         | 21,100                          | 198,000                       |

n/a = Not available

<sup>1</sup> Nationals of EU accession countries are included or excluded according to their accession date

<sup>2</sup> Figures rounded to three significant figures. Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding

<sup>3</sup> Includes Tier 4 dependants in 2009.

<sup>4</sup> The student visitor category provides for those persons who wish to come to the UK as a visitor and undertake a short period of study which will be completed within the period of their leave (maximum six months).

<sup>5</sup> Not applicable.

<sup>6</sup> Provisional figures.

Source:

Home Office, Migration Statistics

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to citizens of each non-EU country in each of the last five years. [40890]

**Damian Green:** A table has been placed in the House of Commons Library showing the number of student visas issued to nationals of each non-EU country in each of the years 2005-10 (January to September).

#### Foreign Workers

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure that routes other than the economic route contribute to the aim of reducing non-EU net migration to the UK to the tens of thousands. [40886]

**Damian Green:** The Government have committed to making changes across the immigration system to achieve its overall aim of reducing net migration.

We are taking action to tighten our migration system across all entry routes for non-EEA migrants—work, students and family—and to break the link between temporary routes and permanent settlement.

We have already set out our approach this year to economic migration. We will shortly announce proposals for reforming the student visa system, following consideration of responses to our recent public consultation. We will launch further consultations on settlement and the family routes later this year.

#### Harassment

**Mr Llywyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many investigations into recorded incidents of harassment as defined under the provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in England and Wales resulted in a conviction in each year since 1998; [39787]

(2) how many incidents of harassment as defined under the provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 were reported to the police in England and Wales in each year since 1998; [39788]

(3) how many incidents of harassment reported to the police in England and Wales were recorded as crimes under the provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in each year since 1998. [39789]

**James Brokenshire** [holding answer 10 February 2011]: Data are not collected centrally on the number of investigations or the number of offences which are reported to the police.

The Home Office collects statistics on the number of offences recorded by the police. Since 2008-09, offences recorded under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 have been grouped together in HO classification 8L 'Harassment'.

There were 48,352 offences recorded in 2008-09 and 53,029 in 2009-10. This classification also includes a small number of summary offences of harassment of a person in his home under section 42A of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (as added to by section 126 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005).

Prior to 2008-09, offences under this legislation were included together with Public Order Act offences and could not be separately identified.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the collection of data on convictions.

#### Harassment: Mobile Phones

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with (a) mobile phone operators and (b) Ofcom on the handling of menacing or harassing calls made from mobile phones. [40650]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office has had no such discussions with mobile phone operators and Ofcom. Ofcom is responsible for regulating the UK telecommunications industries. This issue is, therefore, a matter for my hon. Friend, the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries (Mr Vaizey).

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice and support her Department provides for those who have received menacing or harassing phone calls. [40653]

**James Brokenshire:** No one should have to endure menacing or threatening phone calls, whether from strangers or from people they know. There are a range of civil and criminal sanctions available to the police and other agencies to deal with it. These actions would be taken at a local level—by police forces or local agencies—and not by the Home Office directly.

### Homicide: Offensive Weapons

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of a homicide by blunt instrument in each year from 1991 to 2011. [40781]

**James Brokenshire:** Criminal statistics data collected and published by the Ministry of Justice do not include information about the types of weapon used in homicides. Available data are collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales and extracted from the Homicide Index.

The following table shows the number of suspects convicted of homicide—murder, section 2 manslaughter (diminished responsibility), other manslaughter, infanticide—for offences recorded between 1991 and 2009-10 where the apparent method of killing was (a) blunt instrument, and (b) sharp instrument. They are as at 28 September 2010 and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. This is particularly the case for offences recorded during 2009-10 given the time it can take to bring suspects to trial.

These data are not directly comparable to the number of victims. More than one suspect may be convicted in relation to the death of a particular victim, and sometimes no suspect is ever brought to trial.

*Suspects convicted of homicide<sup>1</sup>, selected methods of killing: England and Wales, 1991 to 2009-10<sup>2</sup>. <sup>3</sup>—England and Wales, recorded crime*

| Year <sup>2</sup>    | Blunt instrument | Sharp instrument <sup>4</sup> |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1991                 | 67               | 199                           |
| 1992                 | 47               | 229                           |
| 1993                 | 72               | 182                           |
| 1994                 | 49               | 225                           |
| 1995                 | 68               | 229                           |
| 1996                 | 77               | 194                           |
| 1997                 | 65               | 185                           |
| 1997-98              | 74               | 174                           |
| 1998-99              | 60               | 185                           |
| 1999-2000            | 60               | 191                           |
| 2000-01              | 72               | 186                           |
| 2001-02              | 62               | 251                           |
| 2002-03              | 37               | 226                           |
| 2003-04              | 83               | 219                           |
| 2004-05              | 73               | 249                           |
| 2005-06              | 61               | 235                           |
| 2006-07              | 55               | 218                           |
| 2007-08              | 58               | 248                           |
| 2008-09              | 54               | 247                           |
| 2009-10 <sup>1</sup> | 23               | 84                            |

<sup>1</sup> As at 28 September 2010. All figures, especially those for 2009-10, are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

<sup>2</sup> Data refer to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 2010-11 are not yet available.

<sup>4</sup> Includes knives and other sharp instruments.

### Human Trafficking

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcome was of the discussions with non-governmental organisations and

others on human trafficking held at her Department on 7 February 2011; and if she will make a statement. [39850]

**Damian Green:** The voluntary sector plays a key role in the identification of, and provision of support to, victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

The meeting between Home Office officials and non-governmental organisations held on 7 February was very useful and we will be contacting NGOs about next steps in due course.

**Mr Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department will commence its review of the merits of opting in to the Human Trafficking Directive; and if she will make a statement. [39879]

**Damian Green [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The Government decided not to opt in to the directive at the outset, but to review the position in line with the revised text. The Government are currently considering the new text and will announce a decision in due course.

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support her Department provides to police forces to assist investigations into human trafficking offences. [40236]

**Damian Green:** The investigation of criminal offences is an operational matter for police forces.

Support for the work of police forces in combating human trafficking is provided by the Serious Organised Crime Agency, of which the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is part.

The UKHTC provides tactical advice for forces undertaking human trafficking investigations.

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to maintain the operation of specialist policing and investigative units aimed at tackling human trafficking offences. [40237]

**Damian Green:** Combating human trafficking is core police business.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is a specialist anti-trafficking unit and is part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). The Home Office funds SOCA to carry out its activities, including those of the UKHTC.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates she has had meetings with voluntary organisations on human trafficking since her appointment; and what was discussed at each meeting. [40403]

**Damian Green:** I met with a number of voluntary organisations at the meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Human Trafficking on 14 February.

I also met with the APPG and "End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for sexual purposes" (ECPAT) on 12 July 2009. In addition,

there is regular dialogue between NGOs and officials from the Home Office, UK Border Agency and Ministry of Justice on human trafficking issues.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates the inter-Ministerial group on trafficking has met since her appointment. [40404]

**Damian Green:** The Government recognise the importance of monitoring the progress of anti-trafficking efforts in the UK and our international obligations.

The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking will meet this month. Discussions at the group will reflect ongoing developments in trafficking policy.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the current status is of the UK action plan on human trafficking. [40637]

**Damian Green:** The UK action plan remains current. It will be replaced by the human trafficking strategy, which will be published in the spring.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the UK Border Agency review of the National Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking. [40806]

**Damian Green [holding answer 14 February 2011]:** An internal review of the National Referral Mechanism was completed in the second half of last year with input from external partners. I wrote to the All Party Parliamentary Group on trafficking on 21 December 2010 and outlined the main outcomes of the review. Copies of this letter will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which voluntary organisations which provide services to victims of human trafficking have met officials of her Department since 2009; and what the dates were on which such meetings took place. [40808]

**Damian Green [holding answer 14 February 2011]:** Principal meetings between Home Office officials and partners in the voluntary sector are listed as follows:

| Meeting                                                                                | Frequency                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The National Referral Mechanism Strategic Monitoring Group                             | Monthly meetings commenced on 15 May 2009. Bi-monthly meetings commenced on 16 November 2010 |
| Trafficking strategy workshop                                                          | 7 February 2011                                                                              |
| Review of National Referral Mechanism                                                  | 22 June 2010                                                                                 |
| UKHTC-led Prevention and Victim Care sub-group meetings                                | Quarterly. The most recent meetings were held on 8 December 2010.                            |
| The Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line (CTAIL) Advisory Group, run by NSPCC | Quarterly. The first meeting was held on 11 February 2009                                    |
| ACPO Child Protection and Abuse Investigation Plenary Group                            | Quarterly. The most recent meeting was held on 14 December 2010                              |

| Meeting                                                                        | Frequency                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ECPAT Child Labour Stakeholder Meeting                                         | 14 September 2010                                              |
| The Violence Against Women and Girls Stakeholder Group                         | Quarterly. The most recent meeting was held on 28 January 2011 |
| A steering group for work on effective practice in responding to prostitution. | 3 November 2010                                                |

Other, ad-hoc meetings have been held between officials and the voluntary sector.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her strategy is in respect of (a) international co-operation on combating human trafficking and (b) adapting the provisions of the European directive on human trafficking. [41206]

**Damian Green:** The Government recognise the importance of international co-operation in tackling human trafficking and is focusing its effort through the European Union and other regional organisations such as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Government decided not to opt in to the European directive on human trafficking at the outset, but to review the position in line with the revised text. We are currently considering the revised text and will announce a decision in due course.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates the Inter-Ministerial Group on human trafficking has met in the last year; and what the outcomes were of each such meeting. [40807]

**Damian Green [holding answer 14 February 2011]:** The Government recognise the importance of monitoring the progress of anti-trafficking efforts in the UK and our international obligations.

The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking will meet this month. Discussions at the group will reflect ongoing developments in trafficking policy.

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the merits of the UK opting in to the EU Directive against human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [40205]

**Damian Green:** The Government decided not to opt in to the directive at the outset, but to review the position in line with the revised text. The Government are currently considering the new text and will announce a decision in due course.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on steps to prevent an increase in the level of human trafficking during the London 2012 Olympics. [40638]



**Damian Green:** Home Office officials meet on a regular basis with officials across Government to review the measures in place to tackle potential threats from human trafficking at the Olympics. While evidence does not suggest that there is any increase in human trafficking linked to the Olympics at the moment, we remain vigilant.

#### Immigrants: English Language

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors she took into account in her decision to review the approved lists of English language tests for entry into the UK under (a) Tier 1, (b) Tier 2 and (c) Tier 4 of the points-based system.

[39660]

**Damian Green:** The decision to review the approved lists of English language tests for entry into the UK under (a) Tier 1, (b) Tier 2 and (c) Tier 4 of the points-based system (PBS) was taken by the UK Border Agency.

The introduction of English language testing has been a gradual process, starting with its introduction under Tier 1 (General) on 20 February 2008 and ending with roll out of English language testing in Tier 4 on 3 March 2010. The UK Border Agency judged that this milestone was an appropriate juncture at which to review the lists of acceptable tests. The review will build on the lessons learned since the inception of English language testing under PBS and will consolidate the existing lists of acceptable tests into a single list.

#### Local Authority Funding

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to announce the allocations to local authorities for the Stronger Safer Communities Fund;

[41016]

(2) when she plans to announce the allocations to local authorities for the Young People Substance Misuse Grant;

[41017]

(3) when she plans to announce the allocations to local authorities for the Community Call to Action Grant.

[41018]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office announced the allocations to local authorities for Community Safety Funding for 2011-12 in a letter to local authority chief executives on 9 February 2011. The Local Government Finance Report laid before Parliament on 31 January confirmed that there would be a Community Safety Fund totalling £56.8 million for England in 2011-12. This funding is for Resource spending and consolidates the old Stronger Safer Communities Fund (Home Office element), Young People Substance Misuse (Home Office element) and Community Call for Action. English local authorities, including the Greater London Authority, will receive this funding through the Area Based Grant. Welsh local authorities will receive a Community Safety Grant direct from the Home Office.

#### Mujaheddin-e-Khalq

**Mr Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the proscription of the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran/Mujaheddin-e-Khalq.

[39845]

**Nick Herbert:** The People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran was proscribed in 2001. It was deproscribed in June 2008 following the judgments of the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission and the Court of Appeal. We continue to keep this organisation under review.

#### Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Neighbourhood Watch organisations there are in each police authority area.

[40999]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office does not hold information on the numbers of Neighbourhood Watch schemes or organisations there are in each police authority area.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the average life of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in each of the last 10 years.

[41000]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office does not hold information on the average life of Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on the number of neighbourhood watch schemes in each parliamentary constituency.

[41236]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office does not hold information on the numbers of Neighbourhood Watch schemes or organisations there are in each parliamentary constituency.

#### Offensive Weapons: Arrests

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made for possession of an offensive weapon in (a) the London Borough of Haringey, (b) London and (c) England and Wales in each year since 2003; and how many charges were subsequently brought.

[40134]

**James Brokenshire:** The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported categories it is not possible to separate arrests for specific offences.

The Home Office also holds data on arrests for possession of an offensive weapon resulting from stop and search procedures. Information can be found in the tables. These data only include those arrests resulting directly from stop and search procedures and do not include other arrests for offensive weapons, which cannot be separately identified.

Data are broken down to police force area level and cannot be separated to boroughs. London includes City of London and Metropolitan Police.

These data held by the Home Office do not include information on the outcome of these arrests, so it is not possible to provide statistics on the number of arrests that led to a charge.

Data on arrests arising from stop and searches for 2009-10 are due to be published in April 2011.

*Arrests for possession of offensive weapons resulting from searches of persons or vehicles under stop and search powers<sup>1</sup>, 2003-04-2008-09*

| <i>Arrests resulting from searches under Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984</i> |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                                                                     | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| City of London                                                                                      | 52      | 47      | 75      | 30      | 27      | 14      |
| Metropolitan Police                                                                                 | 2,640   | 2,493   | 3,362   | 3,235   | 5,488   | 6,577   |
| London                                                                                              | 2,692   | 2,540   | 3,437   | 3,265   | 5,515   | 6,591   |
| England and Wales                                                                                   | 8,247   | 9,503   | 9,686   | 10,498  | 12,518  | 12,780  |

| <i>Arrests resulting from searches in anticipation of violence under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994</i> |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                                                                                                       | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| City of London                                                                                                                        | —       | —       | —       | —       | —       | 1       |
| Metropolitan Police                                                                                                                   | 29      | 19      | 50      | 93      | 84      | 343     |
| London                                                                                                                                | 29      | 19      | 50      | 93      | 84      | 344     |
| England and Wales                                                                                                                     | 299     | 242     | 192     | 256     | 311     | 544     |

| <i>Totals Section 1 and Section 60</i> |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|----------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                        | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| City of London                         | 52      | 47      | 75      | 30      | 27      | 15      |
| Metropolitan Police                    | 2,669   | 2,512   | 3,412   | 3,328   | 5,572   | 6,920   |
| London                                 | 2,721   | 2,559   | 3,487   | 3,358   | 5,599   | 6,935   |
| England and Wales                      | 8,546   | 9,745   | 9,878   | 10,754  | 12,829  | 13,324  |

<sup>1</sup> The stop and search powers include section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and other legislation and section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

### Police: Finance

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what proportion the grant allocation to each police force authority will change in each year to 2014-15. [37717]

**Mrs May [holding answer 1 February 2011]:** I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 72-80WS, which outlines provisional and indicative grant allocations to each police authority in each year over the spending review period 2014-15.

### Police: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many members of the Police Pension Scheme there are; [40191]

(2) what proportion of (a) active and (b) deferred members of the Police Pension Scheme are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65; [40275]

(3) what proportion of members of the Police Pension Scheme are (a) (i) part time and (ii) full time, (b) (A) male and (B) female and (c) (1) active members, (2) deferred members and (3) pensioners. [40276]

**Nick Herbert:** The police pension schemes are locally administered by the relevant police authority; the Government do not hold comprehensive data on the schemes. There are some limited data on the schemes as at 31 March 2008 collected by the Government Actuary's Department. Dependent pensioners (such as a police officer's surviving spouse) are not included in the data.

According to this scheme information, as at 31 March 2008 there were 267,756 members (active, deferred and pensioners) of the police pension schemes. Of the total, 81% (215,966) were male and 19% (51,790) were female; 54% (143,626) were active members, 8% (20,086) were deferred members and 39% (104,044) were pensioner members.

The data on the age of active and deferred members are not available in the age breakdowns requested. However, the following table has the available age breakdown of active and deferred members as at 31 March 2008:

| Age   | Active members |            | Deferred members |            | Total   |
|-------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|---------|
|       | Number         | Percentage | Number           | Percentage |         |
| 0-19  | 111            | 0          | 0                | 0          | 111     |
| 20-29 | 29,084         | 20         | 1,128            | 6          | 30,212  |
| 30-39 | 50,236         | 35         | 5,224            | 26         | 55,460  |
| 40-49 | 54,992         | 38         | 8,950            | 45         | 63,942  |
| 50-54 | 8,138          | 6          | 2,850            | 14         | 10,988  |
| 55-59 | 1,018          | 1          | 1,750            | 9          | 2,768   |
| 60-64 | 47             | 0          | 161              | 1          | 208     |
| 65-69 | 0              | 0          | 23               | 0          | 23      |
| Total | 143,626        | —          | 20,086           | —          | 163,712 |

We do not hold any data on the numbers or proportion of the membership that are part time or full time. However, we do have these data for all currently serving police officers regardless of scheme membership. (Nearly all police officers are members of one of the police pension schemes so the data are a good approximation for the figures for active scheme members.) According to Home Office Annual Data Returns 514 and 502, as at 31 March 2008 (the snapshot that corresponds with the data given above), 5% (6,529) were part time and 95% (137,399) were full time.

### Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on arrangements for the removal of foreign national prisoners. [40469]

**Damian Green:** Strict enforcement is an important element of this Government's immigration policy. We strongly believe that foreign law breakers should be removed from the UK at the earliest possible opportunity. We will seek to deport any foreign national criminal who meets our deportation criteria.

### UK Border Agency: Correspondence

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 434W, on UK Border Agency: correspondence, how many inquiries the UK Border Agency received from hon. Members by (a) letter or email and (b) telephone for each (i) parliamentary constituency, (ii) local authority area, (iii) region and (iv) sub-national area (A) in total and (B) as a proportion of the population. [40161]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency does not keep statistics on MPs' inquiries broken down by all the categories requested and this information could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office publishes an annual report on departmental handling of Members' correspondence including the volume of correspondence received. The report for 2010 will be published shortly. Following publication the Agency will be able to provide a breakdown by parliamentary constituency.

### Visas

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the opportunities for people to switch visas when they are in the UK. [40492]

**Damian Green:** The Government are committed to reducing net migration and eliminating abuse of the immigration system. In our recent public consultation on the student visa system we set out proposals for tightening the route for students to switch to a work visa after the end of their course; we will announce our response to this consultation shortly. We will consider the issue of switching visas on other routes in due course and will consult on this where appropriate.

### Visas: Fees and Charges

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the level of visa charges on the UK's ability to attract more tourists from (a) China and (b) India. [40895]

**Damian Green:** The visit visa fee is a very small proportion of the overall costs of coming to the UK as a tourist, and it is set significantly below the cost of processing applications.

We do not consider that this fee has any significant effect on the UK's ability to attract tourists. Indeed for India and China the UK Border Agency ran two separate pilot schemes between 2007 and 2009 which offered discounted visas in each country and these schemes had no impact on increasing visa applications.

The UK Border Agency regularly reviews its fees to ensure they remain competitive.

Following discussions with Department for Culture, Media and Sport, we are making provision on the UK Border Agency website for visitor visa information to be available in Chinese and Hindi, specifically because these are major and growing tourist markets.

We continue to work closely with tourist bodies, such as VisitBritain, to look at ways we can further develop the service we offer to tourists. However, we need to protect the UK border while facilitating the travel of genuine tourists.

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the level of visa charges on the UK's ability to increase trade with (a) China and (b) India. [40931]

**Damian Green:** We are content that visa fees are set without damage to UK trade, and India and China continue to be key markets for visas to the UK.

When setting fee levels, the UK Border Agency produces impact assessments of any changes. These are published in Parliament together with statutory instruments to set fee levels.

During the fee setting process, the UK Border Agency worked with officials through the Cross-Whitehall Fees Committee and ensured that the interests of those Departments that have responsibilities for UK trade, (primarily the Department for Business Innovation and Skills) are fully taken into account.

Fee levels continue to strike the right balance between maintaining secure and effective border controls, and ensuring that the fees structure does not inhibit the UK's ability to attract those migrants and visitors who make a valued contribution. It is right that those who benefit directly from the immigration system should pay to meet the costs of securing the UK's borders. This will help to support the immigration system, maintain public confidence, and ensure that migration is managed for the benefit of the UK.

Fees are set at the same level in all countries to avoid adding complexity to the fee regulations and to ensure there is equality for applicants from different countries.

### War Crimes

**Mr McCann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the countries of origin are of the individuals recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency in the last five years. [40826]

**Damian Green:** Individuals recommended for immigration action by the UK Border Agency War Crimes Team between August 2005 and June 2010 originate from the following countries:



| Nationality       | Action recommended | Action taken |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Afghanistan       | 75                 | 55           |
| Angola            | 23                 | 19           |
| DRC               | 26                 | 22           |
| Eritrea           | 15                 | 9            |
| Ethiopia          | 18                 | 14           |
| Iran              | 11                 | 11           |
| Iraq              | 105                | 92           |
| Rwanda            | 39                 | 26           |
| Sierra Leone      | 15                 | 12           |
| Sri Lanka         | 73                 | 45           |
| Unknown           | 13                 | 3            |
| Former Yugoslavia | 9                  | 6            |
| Zimbabwe          | 32                 | 26           |
| Other < 9         | 42                 | 26           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>495</b>         | <b>360</b>   |

**Note:**

A form of action was recommended by the research team in 495 cases. Subsequent to a recommendation made by the UKBA War Crimes Team, the respective case owners will have considered all the relevant factors of an individual case and made the decision to take action against 360 of those people. The reasons for not acting upon a recommendation from the research team will be specific to an individual case.

Figures have been derived from and/or informed by local management information and are subject to <5% error. Data has been recorded locally since 1 August 2005 and UKBA does not routinely collate immigration decisions based upon suspected involvement in war crimes or crimes against humanity.

**Mr McCann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the 105 individuals from Iraq recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency are suspected of committing crimes other than under the Ba'athist regime; [40827]

(2) whether any of the 32 individuals from Zimbabwe recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency are suspected of involvement in the seizure of farms; [40829]

(3) how many of the 105 individuals from Iraq recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency are suspected of committing crimes under the Ba'athist regime; [40828]

(4) whether any of the 32 individuals from Zimbabwe recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency are suspected of torture; [40830]

(5) whether any of the 75 individuals from Afghanistan recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency are suspected of being members of the Taliban or linked militias; [40831]

(6) how many of the 39 individuals from Rwanda recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency are suspected of committing offences in contexts other than the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; [40873]

(7) how many of the 39 individuals from Rwanda recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency are suspected of committing crimes in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; [40874]

(8) how many individuals recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency are suspected of committing either torture or grave breaches of the Geneva convention; [40875]

(9) how many individuals recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency have been prosecuted for immigration offences in the latest period for which figures are available; [40876]

(10) how many individuals recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency remain in the UK; [40877]

(11) how many individuals recommended for immigration action by the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency have been deported in the latest period for which figures are available. [40878]

**Damian Green:** Providing specific numbers for the information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

We do not collate data on the types of international crime, but I can confirm around half of the UK-based suspects were recommended for immigration action because of their likely involvement in torture or war crimes. This would have included the crimes the hon. Member refers to in his question. The war crimes team is not aware of any of the suspects being prosecuted for immigration offences.

Some 495 people were recommended for immigration action because of their suspected involvement in war crimes or crimes against humanity between August 2005 and June 2010. Subsequent to these recommendations action was taken against 360 suspects, of which; 19 were removed from the UK, 18 departed voluntarily and 75 were denied entry to the UK. Of the remaining 248 suspects; 139 were refused British citizenship and remain in country with indefinite leave to remain, 35 were refused asylum and granted discretionary leave pending removal and 74 were appealing their decision and/or awaiting further action against them.

**Note:**

Figures have been derived from and/or informed by local management information and are subject to <5% error. Data have been recorded locally since 1 August 2005 and UK Border Agency does not routinely collate immigration decisions based upon suspected involvement in war crimes or crimes against humanity.

**TRANSPORT****Aviation: Pilots**

**Sir Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) with reference to the European Aviation Safety Agency's publication OPS 1, Subpart Q, on flight time limitations for air pilots, what questions were asked to Moebus Aviation; [38893]

(2) with reference to the European Aviation Safety Agency's publication OPS 1, Subpart Q, on flight time limitations for air pilots, what scientists were involved in the Moebus project; and what the (a) professional experience and (b) fields of research were of each of those scientists; [38894]

(3) with reference to the European Aviation Safety Agency's publication OPS 1, Subpart Q, on flight time limitations for air pilots, what were the main conclusions of the consensus report by Moebus in 2008. [38895]

**Mrs Villiers:** Moebus Aviation carried out a study on behalf of the European Aviation Safety Agency. Their report, "Scientific and Medical Evaluation of Flight Time Limitations", is available from the EASA website:

[www.easa.europa.eu](http://www.easa.europa.eu)

**Sir Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the European Aviation Safety Agency's publication OPS 1, Subpart Q, on flight time limitations for air pilots, which staff of the Agency were involved in producing Subpart Q; and what the (a) experience and (b) expertise in the regulation, oversight and implementation of a flight time limitation scheme was of each staff member.

[38897]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

#### Bicycles: Hire Services

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to encourage areas outside central London to set up schemes similar to the Barclays cycle hire scheme.

[38296]

**Norman Baker** [*holding answer 4 February 2011*]: The recently published Local Transport White Paper "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon" outlines the Government's strategy to encourage more sustainable transport choices and includes measures to encourage active travel such as cycling.

Additionally, the Government have announced a £560,000,000 local sustainable transport fund which we anticipate will support a wide range of measures including packages that promote cycling.

I welcome the positive impact that the cycle hire scheme has had on journey patterns in central London and I would encourage local authorities to consider whether such a scheme might be appropriate for their local area.

#### Electric Vehicles: Northern Ireland

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he is taking steps to encourage the take-up of low emission vehicles in Northern Ireland.

[38595]

**Norman Baker:** The nationwide Plug-In Car Grant was launched successfully on 1 January 2011 and will help both private consumers and businesses across the UK (including Northern Ireland) purchase ultra-low emission vehicles. Buyers receive a grant of 25% of the vehicle price, up to a value of £5,000.

In addition, the Secretary of State for Transport announced the outcome of the second round of Plugged-In Places funding on 14 December 2010. Five projects were successful—including Northern Ireland. £84,900 of funding, out of a total project cost of £2.4 million, has been allocated to this project which is expected to install almost 850 charging points.

#### European Aviation Safety Agency

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent representations he has received on the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to change flight time limitations; [38936]

(2) what representations he has received from representatives of the airline industry on the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to change flight time limitations for pilots. [38938]

**Mrs Villiers:** I have received a number of letters from MPs and pilots who are concerned about the proposals contained in the consultation document issued by the European Aviation Safety Agency. I have not yet received any representations from airlines.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to respond to the European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendment for flight time limitations; [38939]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on safety of the European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendment for flight time limitations. [38940]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendment to assess the effectiveness of the measures proposed. They will respond to the consultation once they have completed their review. We will seek to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what implications the implementation of the provisions of the European Union Bill will have for the transfer of authority over flight time limitations from the Civil Aviation Authority to the European Aviation Safety Agency. [38942]

**Mrs Villiers:** None. The EU already has competence in this area.

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on potential risks to passenger safety arising from the adoption of new flight time limitations for pilots proposed by the European Aviation Safety Authority. [38772]

**Mrs Villiers:** None. The European Aviation Safety Agency published draft legislation for consultation on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 20 March. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals. We will seek to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines. If necessary we will discuss the legislation with our European counterparts at an appropriate stage in the legislative process.

#### Railways: Finance

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the future role of the private sector in financing the delivery of rail services. [38994]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government's intention to provide longer contractual terms in future for train operators will significantly increase the opportunity for private

sector investment in rail franchises. The investment planned by private sector train operators will be considered on a case-by-case basis when franchises are awarded.

#### Railways: Snow and Ice

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he made of levels of safety on rail freight services during recent severe weather conditions. [39181]

**Mrs Villiers:** Issues of operational rail safety are a matter for the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), as the independent health and safety regulator of Britain's railways, and relevant rail industry duty holders. The hon. Member may wish to contact the ORR for further information at the following address:

Office of Rail Regulation  
One Kemble street  
London  
WC2B 4AN

#### Railways: Toilets

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to encourage train operating companies to advertise the availability of toilet facilities on trains; and if he will make a statement. [39192]

**Mrs Villiers:** Train operating companies already provide this information. For example, the National Rail Enquiries website provides details for each operator. However, this is provided under the heading of information for passengers with disabilities.

I have asked Department for Transport officials to raise this issue with the Association of Train Operating Companies, to encourage the rail industry to make this information easier to find through all media.

#### Snow and Ice

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has published the snow clearing guidance recommended in Lord Young's report, "Common Sense, Common Safety". [41204]

**Norman Baker:** Guidance for households and traders who wish to clear snow and ice from paths in front of their property, pavements and other public spaces was published on 22 October 2010 and is available at:

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NH/Newsroom/DG\\_191868](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NH/Newsroom/DG_191868)

#### Taxis: Licensing

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that the criterion for whether or not taxis can be licensed should be related solely to the condition of the vehicle. [40810]

**Norman Baker [holding answer 14 February 2011]:** Responsibility for taxi licensing outside London rests with local authorities. The Department for Transport's Best Practice Guidance urges local authorities to consider vehicles on their merits rather than imposing an age limit. Ultimately, though, the decision on whether to

impose an age limit rests with local authorities. We have no immediate plans to change this.

#### Transport: Finance

**Mr Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which schemes from the pre-qualification pool were not selected for the development pool of local major transport schemes. [39843]

**Norman Baker:** The following schemes from the pre-qualification pool were not selected for the development pool.

A38(M) Tame Viaduct (Birmingham)  
Stafford Western Access (Staffordshire)  
Watford Junction Interchange (Hertfordshire)  
Tyne and Wear Bus Corridors (Nexus)  
A24 Ashington to Southwater (West Sussex)  
A338 Bournemouth Spur Road maintenance (Dorset)  
A509 Isham Bypass (Northamptonshire)  
A61 Penistone Road Smart Route (South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive)  
Castleford Town Centre Integrated Transport Scheme (West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive).

Full details are available in the document "Investment in Local Major Transport Schemes: Update" published on the Department for Transport website on 4 February at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165237/706167/transportsschemesupdate.pdf>

#### Trust Ports

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his policy is on the procedure for sale of trust ports; [37882]

(2) what his policy is on ownership of trust ports. [37889]

**Mike Penning:** The Ports Act 1991 sets out the statutory process that allows for the sale of a trust port. A guidance note concerning the procedure for sale of trust ports was published in January 2010 and a copy was placed in the Library of the House.

The Government will consider any proposal by a trust port for a sale on its merits.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### UN Conference on Women

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which (a) Ministers and (b) officials will attend the forthcoming UN Beijing follow-up conference; and who will lead the delegation. [40805]

**Lynne Featherstone [holding answer 14 February 2011]:** The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meeting is being held in New York from 22 February to 4 March. The UK delegation is being led by the head of the Women's National Machinery and deputy director within the Government Equalities Office (GEO). She will be supported by two GEO officials (one per week) and by one Foreign and Commonwealth Office official. Ministers are not planning to attend.



### PRIME MINISTER Competition Act 1998

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Prime Minister whether his attendance at a private dinner with a senior representative of a company that is the subject of a Ministerial decision under the Competition Act 1998 is consistent with the Ministerial Code of Conduct published by the Cabinet Office in May 2010. [41226]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 885W.

### CABINET OFFICE Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of (a) active and (b) deferred members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65 years. [40271]

**Mr Maude:** The proportions of (a) active and (b) deferred members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme who are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65 years are as follows:

| Age group | Actives | Percentage<br>Deferreds |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| 20 to 30  | 15      | 5                       |
| 31 to 40  | 23      | 19                      |
| 41 to 50  | 32      | 36                      |
| 51 to 55  | 14      | 18                      |
| 56 to 65  | 15      | 18                      |

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme there are; [40324]

(2) what proportion of members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are (a) (i) part time and (ii) full time, (b) (A) male and (B) female and (c) (i) active members and (ii) deferred members/pensioners. [40277]

**Mr Maude:** Membership numbers for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and a breakdown between active, deferred and pensioner members can be found in Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts 2009-10, copies of which are in the Library.

The proportions of active members of the PCSPS who are part-time and full-time are 23% and 77% respectively. The proportion of all members of the PCSPS who are male is 45% and 55% are female.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme of the proposed indexation according to the consumer prices index (a) in 2010-11 and (b) in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years. [40386]

**Mr Maude:** The Government have not made any separate estimate of the change in central Government

expenditure over (a) in 2010-11 or (b) in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (ii) 25 and (iv) 30 years for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme as a result of the change to indexation of public service pensions and benefits in line with the consumer prices index.

However, the overall estimated savings in annually managed expenditure over the forecast period for public service pension expenditure were made available in answers to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1193W. The Office of Budgetary Responsibility, responsible for forecasting expenditure on public service pensions, has included the change to indexation in line with the consumer prices index in their methodology.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the administration costs of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are for 2010-11; and what the costs were in each of the last 12 years. [40396]

**Mr Maude:** Prior to 2010 the majority of day-to-day administration costs for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme were met by individual employers and details are not held centrally. These costs covered all administration and record keeping for active members.

From 2010-11 civil service pensions administration has been consolidated. As a result the total administrative costs of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme will be reflected in future Resource Accounts for Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation. Copies will be available in the Library.

### WORK AND PENSIONS

#### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to identify claimants of jobseeker's allowance affected by poor decision-making identified by Professor Malcolm Harrington's review; and if he will (a) amend the status of and (b) provide compensation to those affected. [38729]

**Chris Grayling:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

#### Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question to ask the Secretary of State to (a) identify claimants of jobseeker's allowance affected by poor decision-making identified by Professor Malcolm Harrington's review; and if he will (i) amend the status and (ii) provide compensation to those affected. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus welcomes the first Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington, and is committed to taking forward the Review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer and more effective for the customer. We will not be retrospectively reviewing Employment Support Allowance (ESA) decisions in the light of Professor Harrington's recommendations. However, if a claimant disagrees with a decision in respect of their ESA claim, they can ask the Decision Maker to reconsider the original decision or appeal against that decision, in which case their appeal will be considered by the Tribunal Service.

## Child Maintenance

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he expects records of all Child Support Agency cases to have been transferred to his Department's latest computer system; [32883]

(2) when he expects the records of pre-2003 Child Support Agency cases which have been transferred to his Department's new computer system to have been modified in respect of post-2003 rates of payment. [32886]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he expects records of all Child Support Agency cases to have been transferred to his Department's latest computer system. [32883]; and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he expects the records of pre-2003 Child Support Agency cases which have been transferred to his Department's new computer system to have been modified in respect of post-2003 rates of payment. [32886]

The problems encountered by the Child Support Agency following the launch of the Reforms in 2003 resulted in a decision to defer the bulk transfer of cases from the old scheme (launched in 1993), to the current scheme (launched in 2003). In the meantime, cases are only migrated from the old computer system to the new computer system where they had a link with a case on the new system that made this necessary.

This decision was kept under review and in February 2006 the previous Government asked Sir David Henshaw to review the entire system of child maintenance. His subsequent report led to the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, which makes provision for a new system of child maintenance known as the "future scheme".

The Government continues to develop plans for a future scheme that is intended to replace both the existing schemes.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents without care pay 30 per cent. or net wages in Child Support Agency payments. [32884]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents without care pay 30 percent of net wages in Child Support Agency payments. [32884]

In the quarter to September 2010, 405,300 non-resident parents made child maintenance payments that were less than or equal to 30% of their net income for assessment purposes. 20,200 non-resident parents made child maintenance payments that were over 30% of their net income.

A further 144,200 non-resident parents made child maintenance payments although no net income rate was recorded on the administrative computer systems. In the majority of these cases, no net income rate was required as the non-resident parent may have been on income related benefits or had no ongoing liability to pay maintenance and only arrears of maintenance were being collected.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents without care have records on the post-2003 Child Support Agency computer system and make payments at pre-2003 rates. [32885]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents without care have records on the post-2003 Child Support Agency computer system and make payments at pre-2003 rates. [32885]

As at September 2010, there were 176,000 live and assessed cases on the post-2003 CS2 computer system operating under the pre-2003 assessment scheme rates.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of single parents (a) in Islwyn constituency and (b) nationally were not receiving child maintenance payments payable by their child's non-resident parent (i) in whole and (ii) in part in each of the last three years. [37055]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of single parents (a) in Islwyn constituency and (b) nationally were not receiving child maintenance payments payable by their child's non-resident parent (i) in whole and (ii) in part in each of the last three years.

The table below shows the proportion of cases in each quarter since December 2007 with a positive liability where parents with care nationally and in Islwyn constituency have received maintenance in full, maintenance in part and those that have not received any maintenance. The parents with care may or may not be a single parent as they could be with a new partner.

| Date        | Nationally                               |                                          |                                      | Islwyn Constituency                      |                                          |                                      |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|             | Percentage receiving maintenance in full | Percentage receiving maintenance in part | Percentage not receiving maintenance | Percentage receiving maintenance in full | Percentage receiving maintenance in part | Percentage not receiving maintenance |
| <b>2007</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| December    | 48                                       | 17                                       | 35                                   | 50                                       | 18                                       | 31                                   |
| <b>2008</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| March       | 49                                       | 18                                       | 33                                   | 47                                       | 22                                       | 31                                   |
| June        | 50                                       | 18                                       | 32                                   | 51                                       | 19                                       | 30                                   |
| September   | 51                                       | 18                                       | 31                                   | 52                                       | 19                                       | 29                                   |
| December    | 50                                       | 18                                       | 33                                   | 42                                       | 30                                       | 28                                   |
| <b>2009</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| March       | 51                                       | 20                                       | 29                                   | 44                                       | 29                                       | 27                                   |
| June        | 53                                       | 20                                       | 28                                   | 44                                       | 28                                       | 28                                   |
| September   | 53                                       | 20                                       | 27                                   | 55                                       | 19                                       | 26                                   |
| December    | 53                                       | 22                                       | 26                                   | 45                                       | 28                                       | 27                                   |
| <b>2010</b> |                                          |                                          |                                      |                                          |                                          |                                      |
| March       | 59                                       | 18                                       | 23                                   | 53                                       | 23                                       | 24                                   |
| June        | 57                                       | 20                                       | 23                                   | 47                                       | 27                                       | 26                                   |
| September   | 57                                       | 19                                       | 24                                   | 48                                       | 23                                       | 29                                   |

**Notes:**

1. Cases receiving maintenance in full include cases which are fully compliant over the quarter; cases with a maintenance direct agreement in place at the end of the quarter or where no maintenance has been requested in the quarter yet some maintenance was received.
2. Cases receiving maintenance in part includes those cases that have paid less than the requested amount each quarter. This will include cases that have paid in full but because of timing issues at the end of a quarter, the maintenance receipt has not been fully processed by quarter end.
3. Cases not receiving maintenance include cases with a maintenance liability that have not received any maintenance in the quarter.
4. Figures after March 2008 include the performance of cases administered off system.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
6. Cases have been allocated to the Islwyn constituency by matching the residential postcode of the parent with care to the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory. From the June 2010 Postcode Directory, the boundaries of Islwyn constituency changed meaning figures after this date are not comparable.

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what change in the level of (a) scheme costs and (b) number of cases handled in the new statutory child support scheme he expects to arise from his assessment that 20 per cent. of the newer child maintenance scheme and a further 10 per cent. of all Child Support Agency cases are likely to be able to make family-based maintenance agreements in future.

[39043]

**Maria Miller:** The change in scheme costs and number of cases handled in the new statutory scheme will depend on the complex interaction of many factors of which this is one. The Department for Work and Pensions will produce estimates of the numbers impacted when we publish detailed proposals in the form of draft regulations later in the year. The impact assessments for the draft regulations will set out the estimated impacts on volumes and individuals.

**Disability Living Allowance: Scotland**

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in (a) Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and (b) Scotland in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA) have had their DLA payments reassessed in the last 12 months; how many of these have had their payments (i) reduced, (ii) increased and (iii) revoked; how many appealed against their reassessment; and how many were successful in their appeal.

[41157]

**Maria Miller:** We are not able to say how many residents of Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency receiving disability living allowance (DLA) have had their DLA payments reassessed in the last 12 months; how many of these had their payments (a) reduced, (b) increased and (c) revoked; how many appealed their reassessment; and how many were successful in their appeal. This is because our Management Information system for DLA does not enable us to provide details at that level.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in (a) Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and (b) Scotland receive disability living allowance; and what the cost to the public purse of such allowances was in the last 12 months.

[41227]

**Maria Miller:** The latest available 12 months is the 2009-10 financial year. This information is shown in the table.

| Great Britain 2009-10               | Case load (thousand) | Expenditure (£ million) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency | 6.5                  | 24.9                    |
| Scotland                            | 337.9                | 1,276.0                 |

**Source:**

DWP statistical and accounting data  
Parliamentary constituency expenditure data can be found at the following URL:  
[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/pc\\_expenditure.xls](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/pc_expenditure.xls)  
Further benefit expenditure data can be found at the following URL:  
<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure>



### Social Fund: Television

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many social fund (a) budgeting loans, (b) crisis loans and (c) community care grants for the purpose of buying televisions sets over the value of (i) £500 and (ii) £1,000 were made in (A) Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and (B) Scotland in each of the last five years. [41078]

**Steve Webb:** In the case of budgeting loans, applicants are asked to tick which of seven categories they need help for, but are not asked to specify the items they require. Television sets would come under the category 'to buy furniture or household equipment'. Data are not available on the number of awards for each category.

The number of crisis loans or community care grants initially awarded for the purpose of buying television sets over the value of (i) £500 or (ii) £1,000 in (A) Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency or (B) Scotland in each of the financial years 2005-06 to 2009-10 was extremely low, being recorded as nil or negligible.

#### Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, the information given does not include applications which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the social fund computer system by the end of the relevant financial year.

2. Data are available for initial awards only. No information is available on the number of awards of the type described which were made after review.

3. Exact numbers have not been given for data protection reasons. 'Nil or negligible' means less than five.

#### Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

### Unemployment Benefits: Drugs

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to introduce drugs testing for those in receipt of out-of-work benefits. [40970]

**Maria Miller:** The Government have no plans to introduce drug testing for claimants in receipt of out-of-work benefits.

### EDUCATION

#### Students: Loans

**David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications for loans his Department received from students enrolled on the (a) Legal Practice Certificate and (b) Bar Professional Training course in the last 12 months; and how many applications were (i) granted and (ii) refused in each such case. [40151]

**Mr Willetts:** I have been asked to reply.

These courses are postgraduate professional courses and are not designated for student support in general, although they can be designated for the purposes of disabled students' allowance.

Professional and career development loans (PCDL) have been used to support study for the legal profession. Young People Learning Agency data illustrate that, in 2009-10, 611 learners had taken up a PCDL in pursuit of study in the legal services sector. The lending banks do not collect data on specific qualifications, nor do they record information in regard to unsuccessful applications.

### DEFENCE

#### Air Force: Deployment

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions aircraft have been launched from both quick reaction alert bases in response to a single incident in each year since 2006. [41052]

**Nick Harvey:** None.

#### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of (a) active and (b) deferred members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65 years. [40269]

**Mr Robathan:** The following table provides the proportion of active members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) by age group:

| Age in years | Number  | Percentage of total |
|--------------|---------|---------------------|
| Under 20     | 15,160  | 7.9                 |
| 20-30        | 94,280  | 49.3                |
| 31-40        | 55,270  | 28.9                |
| 41-50        | 23,200  | 12.1                |
| 51-55        | 3,160   | 1.7                 |
| 56-65        | 230     | 0.1                 |
| Grand total  | 191,300 | 100                 |

#### Notes:

1. The breakdown by age group includes members of AFPS 75 and 2005.
2. Active members are personnel who are in service which is reckonable for pension purpose.
3. Deferred members are former active members, or their divorced spouses who have benefits due at a later date.

A reliable breakdown by age group for deferred members of the AFPS could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However as at 31 March 2010 there were a total of 368,079 deferred members.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme are (a) (i) part-time and (ii) full-time, (b) (A) male and (B) female and (c) (1) active members and (2) deferred members/pensioners. [40325]

**Mr Robathan:** The numbers of active and deferred members in the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) can be found within the AFPS Resource Accounts for Financial Year 2009-10, copies of which are held in the Library of the House. While the precise number of part-time active members is not known, there are 30 personnel within the Reserved Forces Pension Scheme who, from time to time, may serve on a part-time basis.

A reliable breakdown by gender is not available for deferred members of the AFPS. A breakdown for active or benefit-in-payment members can be found in the following table:

|                            | Male    | Female |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|
| Active members             | 173,050 | 18,250 |
| Benefit in payment members | 299,527 | 72,420 |

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the administration costs of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme are for 2010-11; and what the costs were in each of the last 12 years. [40390]

**Mr Robathan:** The information for all of the dates requested is not held.

The direct administration cost of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme for 2009-10 was £7.28 million.

#### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40288]

**Mr Robathan:** Costs to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for offsetting its carbon emissions from air travel in 2007-08 and 2008-09 were £167,214 and £240,880 respectively (both excluding VAT). Payment was made through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund administered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The MOD will purchase offsets for 2009-10 using the facility now administered by 'Government Buying Solutions'.

#### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 516W, on departmental procurement, for what reasons his Department let each contract non-competitively. [39891]

**Peter Luff:** Many factors are taken into account in reaching these decisions and they vary from contract to contract. The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

#### Departmental Responsibilities

**Gemma Doyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what engagements he has undertaken in (a) the UK and (b) overseas in the last three months. [40787]

**Dr Fox:** Details of my overseas travel, received hospitality and meetings with organisations external to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) are published on a quarterly basis on the MOD website as part of the Government's Transparency Agenda, at the following address:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/MinistersHospitalityReceived.htm>

The information regarding my engagements in the UK for the last three months is currently being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

#### Devonport Dockyard

**Mr Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when decisions about the base porting of frigates at HM Naval Base Devonport are likely to be (a) made and (b) announced. [40144]

**Peter Luff:** We anticipate a decision being made by the end of the year but no date has been set for any announcement.

#### France: Nuclear Weapons

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's projected budget is for operation of the UK area at the Teutates Epure facility in France from 2016; [40533]

(2) what spending commitments his Department will be subject to for the UK area at the Teutates Epure facility in France prior to 2016; [40534]

(3) how many UK staff will be employed in the UK area at the Teutates Epure facility in France; [40535]

(4) how much his Department plans to spend on its share of the costs of phase 2 building at the new Teutates Epure facility in France; [40536]

(5) how much his Department has budgeted for the construction of the new Teutates Technology Development Centre at AWE Aldermaston. [40537]

**Peter Luff:** Both the planned Teutates Technology Development Centre, to be built at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston, and the Teutates Epure facility, to be built in France, are in the project concept phase.

Cost estimates are currently being developed jointly by teams in the UK and France. Budget forecasts will be included in the final national investment approvals for the Teutates programme, which are scheduled to be sought by the end of 2012.

The operational model, including the number of staff required to support UK operations at the Teutates Epure facility in France, will be developed as part of the subsequent project assessment phase.

#### Italy: Military Alliances

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his Italian counterpart on defence co-operation; and if he will make a statement. [40316]

**Dr Fox:** I discussed defence co-operation with the Italian Defence Minister, Ignazio La Russa, when we met on 21 July 2010 in London, and at the NATO Lisbon summit on 20 November 2010.

The Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the Minister for International Security Strategy, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth) and the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology, my hon. Friend

the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff) met with the Italian Under-Secretary of State, Guido Crosetto, at the Farnborough Air Show on 19 July 2010.

The Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology has also had meetings with the Italian Under-Secretary of State, Guido Crosetto, to discuss defence industrial co-operation on several occasions, and has also met with the Italian ambassador to London, Ambassador Economides, to discuss defence co-operation.

In addition to these face-to-face meetings there has been regular correspondence between the UK and Italy at ministerial and official level.

#### Rescue Services

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the reasons why the tendering process for the search and rescue contract undertaken by his Department did not proceed; and if he will make a statement. [40649]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 7WS, and correction to the *Official Report* on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 16WS.

#### TREASURY

##### Child Benefit

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to enable sanctions to be placed on higher rate tax payers who fail to disclose that their partner is in receipt of child benefit. [38178]

**Mr Gauke** [*holding answer 3 February 2011*]: Child benefit will be withdrawn from families containing a higher rate taxpayer from January 2013. This can be delivered within existing PAYE and self assessment systems. Legislative changes will be required to deliver this policy. Details of the changes to legislation will be outlined in due course.

##### Corporate Social Responsibility

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax incentives there are to encourage businesses to engage in corporate social responsibility. [39849]

**Mr Gauke:** The primary aim of the tax system is to raise revenue to fund essential public services. However, the Government also recognise that the tax system can be used to support wider policy objectives. There are a number of targeted ways in which the tax system supports corporate social responsibility, for example through the deductibility of charitable expenditure from profits chargeable to corporation tax.

The Government are committed to encouraging businesses to improve the social and environmental impact of their activities—including in the way they treat their customers, suppliers and employees, and how they work with local communities.

#### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40523]

**Justine Greening:** The Treasury purchases carbon credits to offset emissions arising from official and ministerial air travel on an annual basis via the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility (GCOF). Financial spend and the companies to which payments were made over the past three financial years are shown in the following table.

| Financial year | Companies purchases made from   | Total spend (£) |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2007-08        | Essent Trading International SA | 8,808.41        |
| 2008-09        | Essent Trading International SA | 11,892.00       |
| 2009-10        | First Climate Market AG         | 11,269.83       |

#### Departmental Publications

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on printing (a) Command Papers; (b) papers presented to Parliament by Act; (c) consultation documents and (d) other papers in each of the last 10 years. [28381]

**Justine Greening:** We are unable to provide an estimate on the Department's expenditure on printing different types of reports/papers in each of the last 10 years, as to provide such information would involve disproportionate costs.

#### Economic and Monetary Union

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the maximum potential UK contribution to support for eurozone countries under the European Stability Mechanism to 2013. [40645]

**Mr Hoban:** The UK will not be part of the European Stability Mechanism. The December European Council agreed that a permanent mechanism to safeguard the financial stability of the euro area as a whole (European Stability Mechanism—ESM) will be established by 'the member states of the euro area' from 2013.

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the maximum potential liability to the public purse under the European Financial Stability Mechanism to 2013. [40646]

**Mr Hoban:** At the 9 May ECOFIN meeting, EU Finance Ministers agreed that up to €60 billion of emergency finance can be provided to any EU member state under the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM).



The EFSM is financed by the European Commission raising funds on capital markets, guaranteed by the EU Budget. There is no direct impact on the EU Budget from any such borrowing by the Commission. Only in the event that a beneficiary member state defaults on loan repayments would the EU Budget be affected.

In those circumstances, member states would be liable for a share based on their contribution to the EU Budget at that time. Contributions to the EU Budget vary over time, mainly driven by the member states' share in national income. For this reason, it is not possible to state exactly the UK liability in the event of a default by a member state. As an illustrative example, based on contributions to the 2010 EU Budget, the UK's share would be approximately 14% of the default amount.

#### Economic Situation

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on economic growth of recent changes to the (a) Government's capital building programme and (b) rate of value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [38890]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

*Letter from Robert Chote, dated 4 February 2010:*

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The OBR's November forecast incorporated the estimated impact of policy measures announced at or before the June Budget and October spending review.

The OBR applied a range of fiscal multipliers to help inform its judgement on the impact of policy measures on aggregate demand in the economy. These multipliers are set out in Table C8 of the interim OBR's June Budget document A figure of 0.6, for example, means that a measure which has a direct effect of raising revenue by 1 per cent of GDP is estimated to reduce aggregate demand in the economy by 0.6 per cent in the short run. A multiplier of 1 was judged to be appropriate for changes in capital expenditure, while a multiplier of 0.6 was applied to changes in VAT.

In the OBR's November forecast, reductions in capital expenditure were therefore assumed to have an initial impact of a one-for-one reduction in aggregate demand. The forecast also assumed that the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent would reduce the level of real GDP in 2011/12 by around 0.3 per cent. These immediate effects are reduced over time through a number of processes as the economy adjusts, including a monetary policy response and real wage adjustments.

#### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of adjusting levels of excise duty on fuel to stabilise petrol and diesel prices at 2009 levels in each of the next four financial years. [41075]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith). The Government are considering options for a fair fuel stabiliser. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

#### Exports: Forecasts

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecasts the Office for Budget Responsibility made of UK exports to different (a) countries and (b) regions of the world as part of the November 2010 Economic and Fiscal Outlook. [39931]

**Justine Greening:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

*Letter from Robert Chote, dated February 2011:*

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility, I have been asked to reply to your recent question:

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecasts the Office for Budget Responsibility made of UK exports to different (a) countries and (b) regions of the world as part of the November 2010 Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

The OBR's November 2010 forecast for total UK exports was based on our assessment of the prospects for aggregate UK export market growth and price competitiveness. However, the OBR does not currently produce a forecast for UK exports disaggregated to country or regional level.

#### Financial Services Authority: Staff Qualifications

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what (a) minimum qualification and (b) experience the Financial Services Authority requires of staff working on the formulation and implementation of policy in the (i) life assurance and (ii) pensions sector. [39299]

**Mr Hoban [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is an independent body and, as such, determines the appropriate qualification levels for its staff.

#### Debt Advocacy Services

**Stella Creasy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the numbers of UK residents likely to be able to access independent and free debt advocacy services of the abolition of the financial inclusion fund. [40190]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government are committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

The Government will maintain support for debt advice in 2011-12. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has allocated £27 million for debt advice in the next financial year, matching the level of support for the sector currently provided by the financial inclusion fund.

#### Citizens Advice Services

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of using income from fines levied by the Financial Services Authority to support Citizens Advice services. [40730]

**Mr Hoban:** My Department has made no formal assessment of using income from fines to support Citizens Advice services.

### Fiscal Policy

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of using (a) a fiscal mandate and (b) fiscal rules. [38922]

**Justine Greening:** The forward-looking fiscal mandate addresses a key failing of the framework of fiscal rules that was in place from 1997 to 2008; the formulation of the golden rule adopted during this period required the Government to balance the current budget over the economic cycle. This resulted in an approach that was too backward-looking, especially at the end of the economic cycle, allowing persistent fiscal deficits when growth was strong, on the basis of past surpluses.

By contrast the Government's fiscal mandate is forward-looking and requires that the cyclically-adjusted current budget be returned to balance over the five-year forecast period. Moreover, the key forecast judgments as to whether the Government are on course to meet the fiscal mandate will be now determined by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, not HM Treasury. The choice of the fiscal mandate reflects the exceptional fiscal challenge the Government must address.

### Income Tax: Investment Income

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of revenue to the Exchequer of raising the level of income tax relief on investment for the Enterprise Investment Scheme. [33831]

**Mr Gauke:** The estimated costs of the Enterprise Investment Scheme are published in the HM Revenue and Customs main tax expenditures and structural reliefs table, available at:

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax\\_expenditures/menu.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm)

The Government take all relevant factors into account when considering how to ensure that the EIS remains an effective incentive for investment in small companies.

### Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of income tax revenue was derived from the (a) top 1 per cent., (b) top 5 per cent., (c) top 10 per cent., (d) top 25 per cent., (e) lowest 50 per cent., (f) lowest 25 per cent. and (g) lowest 10 per cent. of earners in 1998-99. [38361]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested is provided in the following table.

| Percentiles of total income for 1998-99 | Share of total income tax (percentage) |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| (a) top 1%                              | 21.3                                   |
| (b) top 5%                              | 39.5                                   |
| (c) top 10%                             | 50.1                                   |
| (d) top 25%                             | 69.6                                   |
| (e) lowest 50%                          | 11.6                                   |

| Percentiles of total income for 1998-99 | Share of total income tax (percentage) |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| (f) lowest 25%                          | 2.4                                    |
| (g) lowest 10%                          | 0.3                                    |

These figures are based on the 1998-99 Survey of Personal Incomes data.

Similar estimates for 1999-2000 to 2007-08 and projections to 2010-11 are available on the HMRC website:

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income\\_tax/table2-4.pdf](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-4.pdf)

### National Insurance Contributions

**Mr Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-matched national insurance contributions were matched in each of the last five years. [37222]

**Mr Gauke:** The information on the number of non-matched national insurance contributions matched to national insurance accounts is given in the following table:

| Tax year | Volume  |
|----------|---------|
| 2005-06  | 550,000 |
| 2006-07  | 630,000 |
| 2007-08  | 460,000 |
| 2008-09  | 720,000 |

Figures relating to 2009-10 are not yet available.

Over 97% of items are successfully matched as they come in. HMRC takes proactive steps to match unmatched items to the right account. This includes writing, where appropriate, to the employer and/or employee to obtain further information; writing to people who are in danger of not being able to acquire the 30 years of contributions necessary to qualify for a basic state pension and immediately checking whether there are any unmatched items where any individual queries gaps in their contributions history.

HMRC also provides a statement, on request, showing an individual's contributions history so that they can check whether there are any unexpected gaps. HMRC is also working with employers to reduce the number of cases where incorrect or incomplete details are sent in.

### National Insurance Fund

**Mr Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 34 of the national insurance fund account 2009-10, what the monetary value is of the 119 million items in the suspense file. [37224]

**Mr Gauke:** The information about the monetary value of all the 119 million items is available only at disproportionate cost.

### Personal Income

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number and proportion of people in each region whose net income will be lower on 31 December 2011 than it was on 31 December 2010. [38453]

**Mr Gauke:** The Office for Budget Responsibility has not published forecasts on a sub-national basis. Changes in employment levels at a regional level would form part of any calculation of the number who could experience a reduction in net income in a region over the period. It is therefore not possible to provide a robust estimate in response to this question.

However, for the first time at the June Budget, and subsequently at spending review, the Government have published detailed information on the likely impact of tax and benefit reforms on households. This shows that the top 20% contribute most to the fiscal consolidation as a percentage of net income and benefits-in-kind. Further detail can be found in Annex B of the spending review, and Annex A of the June Budget.

#### Public Expenditure

**Mr Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what date he expects accounts to have been published relating to the total of general government expenditure in 2009-10. [36632]

**Danny Alexander** [holding answer 27 January 2011]: Full financial accruals-based accounts for general government expenditure in 2009-10 (based on EU adopted IFRS as adapted for the public sector) will be published for the first time as part of the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) by the end of December 2011, in line with the legislation set out in the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. These accounts are subject to audit and can only be published once the audit has been completed. The publication date has not yet been set.

Provisional outturn for general government expenditure in 2009-10 was first published in the Treasury's July 2010 PESA National Statistics release, based on Treasury-defined spending frameworks. This included outturn data for central Government, consistent with the Public Expenditure 2009-10 provisional outturn command paper (PEOWP) and plans data for local government.

Updated outturn for general government expenditure in 2009-10 will be published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses National Statistics release in April 2011. This will include full outturn for both central and local government.

#### Public Sector: Pay

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to implement the policy of requiring his approval for public sector salaries which are greater than that of the Prime Minister. [40783]

**Danny Alexander** [holding answer 14 February 2011]: The Government announced, on 24 May 2010, that I would approve pay and remuneration levels at and above £142,500 for all civil service appointments and appointments to public sector bodies which are subject to ministerial approval. The approval process has been ongoing since the announcement.

#### Revenue and Customs: Consultants

**Mr Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consultants are employed by HM Revenue and Customs; and what the average length of their contracts is. [37221]

**Mr Gauke:** The use of consultants within HMRC is spread across a number of disciplines. Appointments are restricted to engagements where the skills, expertise and professional views are required on complex matters, which are not available in-house or elsewhere within HMRC.

HMRC currently has four live consultancy contracts. The award of the contracts is based upon the delivery of business requirements by a specific date, not specifically the number of people the supplier will use to deliver it. The numbers of people working under these contracts can vary over time depending on the stage the work is at. It is not therefore possible to provide the information requested, but the number of current consultancy contracts at the end of January 2011 is given in the following table.

| Duration           | Number of contracts |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Under three months | 1                   |
| Nine to 12 months  | 1                   |
| Over 12 months     | 2                   |
| Total              | 4                   |

#### Revenue and Customs: Manpower

**Mr Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the HM Revenue and Customs employee headcount was for its (a) PSN and (b) information management services department in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008, (iv) 2009 and (v) 2010. [37330]

**Mr Gauke:** The HM Revenue and Customs headcount figures for PSN and information management services for the last five years are shown in the following table:

| As at 1 April each year | PSN (PAYE, SA and NIC) | IMS (information management services) |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2006                    | 334                    | 1,997                                 |
| 2007                    | 388                    | 1,743                                 |
| 2008                    | 350                    | 1,499                                 |
| 2009                    | 372                    | 1,428                                 |
| 2010                    | 372                    | 1,296                                 |

#### Smuggling: Tobacco

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department spent on its Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy in 2009-10; [40228]

(2) how many staff of his Department were assigned to implementing the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy in 2009-10; and how many such staff were engaged in (a) detection, (b) intelligence-gathering and analysis, (c) investigations and (d) the provision of legal advice; [40229]

(3) what estimate he has made of the expenditure incurred by his Department on salaries for full-time investigation staff allocated to its Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy for staff (a) engaged in detection, (b) engaged in investigations, (c) working on intelligence matters and (d) in total in 2009-10; [40230]

(4) what expenditure his Department incurred on publicity campaigns intended to reduce tobacco smuggling in (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10. [40231]



**Mr Gauke:** The full-time equivalents of staff employed on tackling tobacco smuggling in detection, intelligence gathering and investigation for 2009-10 are shown as follows.

| 2009-10       |        |
|---------------|--------|
|               | Number |
| Detection     | 153    |
| Investigation | 360    |
| Intelligence  | 172    |
| Total         | 685    |

These figures represent HMRC's best estimate of the way resources were used in the year specified, bearing in mind that the work of staff employed on anti-fraud and smuggling activity often covers a number of different taxes and commodities.

Expenditure incurred on salaries for full-time equivalent staff allocated to tobacco smuggling is shown in the following table.

| 2009-10       |            |
|---------------|------------|
|               | £          |
| Detection     | 5,362,740  |
| Investigation | 20,840,605 |
| Intelligence  | 7,946,658  |
| Total         | 34,150,003 |

HMRC is unable to disaggregate time spent on the provision of legal advice on tobacco from time spent on other advisory work.

HMRC incurred no expenditure on targeted media campaigns to support their anti-tobacco smuggling strategy in 2008-09. HMRC funded £170,000 for targeted media campaigns in 2009-10.

### Taxation

**Mr Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse under each budget heading of operating (a) pay-as-you-earn, (b) self-assessment and (c) national insurance in each of the last five years. [37253]

**Mr Gauke:** Estimated costs are shown as follows. They cover a period of significant change for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise, and the creation of the UK Border Agency. Such structural change, combined with regular improvements to our overhead attribution, means that year-on-year overhead allocations are not consistent.

|                    | HMRC administrative costs |         |         |                      |         |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------|---------|
|                    | 2005-06                   | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 <sup>2</sup> | 2009-10 |
| Income tax         | 919.2                     | 944.4   | 949.3   | 951.5                | 860.2   |
| PAYE               |                           |         |         |                      |         |
| Income tax         | 867.1                     | 926.7   | 1805.0  | 875.7                | 838.7   |
| SA                 |                           |         |         |                      |         |
| National insurance | 360.6                     | 338.1   | 374.0   | 370.9                | 350.6   |

<sup>1</sup> Likely to be understated because of a change in the way data was captured following departmental restructuring.

<sup>2</sup> Costs for 2008-09 income tax self assessment and national insurance have been revised from previous estimates as a result of a further analysis of activities.

### Taxation: Aviation

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport the effect of his policy on aviation taxation on the Government's forthcoming tourism strategy; and if he will make a statement; [41001]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the Exchequer of re-designating all Caribbean countries as band B destinations for the purposes of air passenger duty; [41002]

(3) if he will assess the effects of the implementation of the German per passenger aviation tax as part of his review of aviation taxation. [41003]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bedford (Richard Fuller), on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 838W.

### Taxation: Multinational Companies

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the net effect on Inland Revenue income likely to result from his Department's (a) proposed temporary and (b) full set of controlled foreign companies tax regime; [40301]

(2) what estimate he has made of the net effect on the level of investment in the UK likely to result from his Department's (a) proposed temporary and (b) full reform of controlled foreign companies tax regulation; [40302]

(3) what assessment he has made of the compliance of his Department's (a) proposed temporary and (b) full reform of controlled foreign companies tax regulation with EU competition rules. [40303]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government are committed to reforming the UK's current Controlled Foreign Company (CFC) rules and have just finished consulting on draft legislation for interim improvements to the CFC rules for introduction in this year's Finance Bill. A Tax Information and Impact Note (TUN) has been published on these proposals and is available here:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget-updates/autumn-tax/tiin.htm#ct>

The Government expect to provide further details at the Budget.

The Government are also consulting on new full CFC rules for introduction in 2012. Final decisions on detailed aspects of reform have not yet been made although the Government expect to provide further details at the Budget. Once final proposals are developed, the Government will publish a TUN on full CFC reform in line with its new approach to tax policy making.

CFC rules are anti-avoidance measures and are permitted by the EU treaty fundamental freedoms. The new UK CFC rules will be compatible with the relevant treaty obligations.

### VAT: Further Education

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 958-59W, on further education: value added tax, what level of use of college buildings at times when they are not in use for

educational purposes by (a) voluntary sector organisations with a charge levied on a cost-recovery basis only and (b) commercial organisations with a charge levied to generate income for the support of educational activities would be permissible without invalidating an earlier zero-rating of value added tax for the construction of the buildings being used.

[40315]

**Mr Gauke:** The construction of buildings intended for use solely for a relevant charitable purpose enjoys a zero rate of VAT. If a building ceases to be so used within 10 years of its construction, VAT is payable.

When determining whether a building is used solely for a relevant charitable purpose, other use of up to 5% is disregarded. The proportions of qualifying and non-qualifying use can be calculated by any method that is fair and reasonable.

Permitting use of the college building by a commercial organisation in return for payment is a business activity by the college and is not use for a relevant charitable purpose.

Permitting use of the college building by a voluntary sector organisation in return for a payment based on cost recovery is also considered to be a business activity, and is not use for a relevant charitable purpose, in the majority of cases.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Developing Countries: Human Trafficking

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much overseas aid was committed to the prevention of human trafficking in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

[41160]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Malawi Anti-Child Trafficking Project, run by the Salvation Army. In 2009-10 the budget for this project was £85,953 and in 2010-11 it is £125,537.

DFID has also supported developing country governments' and UN agencies' anti-trafficking efforts through other projects. For example, our Bangladesh Police Reform Project supported the establishment of a specialised police unit for combating human trafficking. DFID also works to tackle the root causes of human trafficking in poor countries such as poverty, lack of economic opportunities, and social exclusion.

DFID is currently reviewing all its bilateral and multilateral aid programmes to ensure UK aid represents value for money and brings real benefit to the world's poor. Support to reduce human trafficking is included in these reviews, which will conclude by the end of February.

### Overseas Aid

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Justice the allocation of aid in countries with a large number of nationals in prison in England and Wales.

[41159]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Secretary of State for International Development has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice. UK aid is allocated on the basis of poverty reduction. We have a clear responsibility to ensure that we target our aid where it is needed the most and where it will make the most significant impact. Allocations to each country and detailed plans will be determined by the conclusions of the bilateral aid review—to be published by the end of February.

### Peru: Mining

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the right of communities in Peru to be consulted about development projects that affect them; and if he will make a statement.

[40504]

**Mr Duncan:** The UK Government fully recognise the right of citizens in developing countries to be consulted and informed about development projects that affect them. The Department for International Development (DFID) consults relevant stakeholders during the design of projects to take account of their views.

In Peru, DFID supports development projects through multilateral and civil society organisations (CSOs). Many of these CSOs work in close partnership with community-based organisations, supporting poor rural and urban communities to make their voice heard, influence decision-making and improve their own life.

### State Visits: Costs

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on which occasions his Department has contributed to meeting the costs of a state visit to the UK by a foreign head of state in each of the last 13 years.

[39909]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) was one of a number of Government Departments that part funded the Pope's visit to the UK in 2010. This money does not constitute official development assistance and is therefore additional to the coalition Government's historic commitment to meet the 0.7% UN aid target from 2013.

DFID's central records do not hold information at this level of detail and therefore further information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bees: EU Action

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on proposals at EU level to improve bee health.

[39381]

**Mr Paice:** The European Commission (EC) issued a paper on 6 December 2010 outlining a number of initiatives to improve bee health in the EU. These were presented to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting which I attended on 24 January. Subsequently, my officials met with their counterparts in other member states to discuss the EC's proposals on 1 February. We welcome

these initiatives and look forward to continuing these discussions over the next few months. The Hungarian presidency has highlighted bee health as one of its priority areas and its response to the EC's paper is expected in May.

#### Bluetongue Disease

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likelihood of a bluetongue epidemic in livestock in the UK in 2011. [40898]

**Mr Paice:** Reports show that the bluetongue situation in Europe appears to be considerably improving. BTV8 was previously circulating in Northern Europe, but active BTV-8 circulation has not been reported from any northern EU member state in 2010.

The UK's surveillance has found no evidence of circulation of any bluetongue serotypes in 2009 or 2010.

The risk of bluetongue 8 introduction in the UK is therefore considered to be low. The risk of other BTV serotypes entering the UK is also considered to be low.

We will continue to monitor the disease situation in the UK and the rest of Europe, and will alert industry to any change in risk.

#### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Barnett consequential funding her Department has provided to each devolved Administration in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39396]

**Richard Benyon:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the departmental expenditure limits budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading "House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula".

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pspub\\_pes10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pspub_pes10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the main and supplementary estimates.

#### Departmental Redundancy

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wallasey of 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 184W, on departmental redundancy, what (a) proportion of and

(b) amount within her budget each year of the comprehensive spending review period she has allocated for redundancies. [39055]

**Richard Benyon:** In autumn 2010 the Department estimated that around £190 million (2% of the overall DEFRA budget for the four-year spending review period) would be required to fund voluntary exits and redundancies.

The terms of the new Compensation Scheme were announced in December 2010. DEFRA will shortly announce a voluntary exit scheme based on these terms. Once the outcome of the scheme is known, DEFRA will consider what redundancy action is necessary. It is not possible at this stage to determine in advance the exact amount needed or cost per year as the voluntary nature of the first two stages means that until applications are made and accepted, it is not possible to determine the cost based on the profile of applicants (grade and length of service).

However, due to changes to the terms of the Compensation Scheme announced in December 2010, DEFRA is confident that the original forecast of £190 million will turn out to be an overestimate.

#### Departmental Staff

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials of her Department at each grade have left the civil service since 17 May 2010. [39144]

**Richard Benyon [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The following table shows the number of DEFRA employees who have left the Department between 17 May 2010 and 31 January 2011. The totals exclude staff who have transferred to other Government Departments as they have not left the civil service.

| Grade equivalent   | Permanent and fixed-term appointments |           | Short-term appointments |           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
|                    | FTE                                   | Headcount | FTE                     | Headcount |
| AA                 | 27.79                                 | 31        | 43.61                   | 44        |
| AO                 | 244.17                                | 257       | 76.32                   | 80        |
| EO                 | 71.14                                 | 79        | 14.00                   | 17        |
| HEO                | 50.00                                 | 54        | 7.00                    | 7         |
| SEO                | 32.90                                 | 37        | 4.00                    | 4         |
| Grade 7            | 41.65                                 | 44        | 2.40                    | 3         |
| Grade 6            | 17.38                                 | 19        | 2.65                    | 3         |
| SCS                | 15.00                                 | 15        | 0.00                    | 0         |
| Other <sup>1</sup> | 18.63                                 | 19        | 0.00                    | 0         |
| Total              | 518.66                                | 555       | 149.98                  | 158       |

<sup>1</sup> Departures in the 'Other' category relate to 19 individuals who were made voluntarily redundant from the Food and Environment Research Agency as part of a TUPE transfer and as such were never formally allocated grades.

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff of (a) Natural England, (b) the Environment Agency and (c) the Forestry Commission have left those bodies since 17 May 2010. [39145]

**Richard Benyon [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** 142 people left Natural England and 889 people left the Environment Agency between 17 May 2010 and 31 January



2011. The figures include those staff who were on the payroll of the organisations and exclude employment agency temporary staff and contractors.

The Forestry Commission is a Great Britain cross-border non-ministerial department, not a DEFRA agency and is funded by and reports separately to the devolved administrations as forestry is a devolved matter. I will ask the Director General of the Forestry Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

#### Departmental Video Recordings

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on the production of video footage in which Ministers appear since 11 May 2010; what the cost of each video was; and for what purpose each piece of footage was used. [40293]

**Richard Benyon:** Since 11 May 2010 there has been no expenditure on the productions of video footage in which Ministers appear. Where videos have been produced they have used existing in-house resources and have been messages to staff—available through the Department's intranet—or ministerial speeches at events and in support policy announcements—available on YouTube.

#### Fisheries

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what financial assistance her Department plans to provide to increase the number of boats in the UK fishing fleet with on-board CCTV installed in each of the next four years; [39539]

(2) what her Department's policy is on the relative merits of (a) landing-based fish quotas and (b) a catch-based quota system. [39541]

**Richard Benyon:** The UK has been trialling a catch quota management system verified by on-board remote electronic monitoring. Under this system, all fish caught, including juveniles, count against quota and fishermen have to stop fishing once the quota is reached. Total mortality is fixed under this system, unlike a landings based quota which simply limits the amount of fish that can be landed. The results of the North sea cod trial run in 2010 were very promising and indicate that this system can significantly reduce discards. We are running a further trial this year with more vessels and different stocks, and the evidence collected is being used to influence the reform of the common fisheries policy.

The UK sees moving to a system of catch quotas as key in our fight against discards. We envisage this operating within a regionalised framework—where those closest to the fishery have the flexibility to use catch quotas, and a range of innovative discard measures appropriate to local conditions.

Currently, the cost of the catch quota technology is met by the Government. However, in future years, and as the scheme expands further, we will consider what part the industry should play in helping to meet these costs.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of fisheries within UK waters which are over-exploited. [39542]

**Richard Benyon:** The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) provides scientific advice on fish stocks in European waters. ICES classifies a stock's status by looking at the proportion of the stock removed each year through fishing, in comparison with agreed reference levels. These reference levels include the precautionary level (Fpa) and the level that produces the maximum sustainable yield (Fmsy).

Based on the most recent ICES advice (from 2010) for 52 stocks of UK interest, information on exploitation relative to precautionary reference points is available for 15 stocks, of which 67% are considered to be harvested sustainably. Information on exploitation relative to maximum sustainable yield criteria is available for 19 stocks, of which 42% are harvested at the level that will produce maximum long term yield.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the species of fish in UK fisheries which are over-exploited; and what assessment she has made of the extent of over-exploitation in each case. [39543]

**Richard Benyon:** The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) provides scientific advice on fish stocks in European waters. The extent to which any individual stock can be considered to be over-exploited can be described in terms of both whether it is being harvested sustainably (a measure of fishing pressure), and whether it is suffering reduced reproductive capacity (a measure of the number of mature fish). Based on the most recent ICES advice, this information is available for 23 stocks of UK interest, 12 of which are considered to be overexploited either due to the number of fish being below the precautionary level or fishing pressure being too high. The classifications of these stocks are indicated as follows:

*Stocks which are at full reproductive capacity but are being harvested unsustainably*

Sole, Eastern channel

Mackerel, North East Atlantic

*Stocks which are at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity*

Herring, North sea

Sole, North sea

Plaice, Western channel

Plaice, Celtic sea

*Stocks which are suffering reduced reproductive capacity:*

Cod, North sea

Cod, West of Scotland

Haddock, West of Scotland

Cod, Irish sea

Sole, Irish sea

Blue Whiting, combined areas.

### Fishing Catches

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on the catch levels applicable to fishing vessels registered in the EU. [40686]

**Richard Benyon:** I led the UK delegation at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 13 to 14 December where catch limits for EU vessels in 2011 were discussed. The negotiations resulted in a number of significant gains for all four parts of the UK on the original Commission proposals, striking an appropriate balance between needing to conserve fish stocks for the future and maintaining the economic viability of the UK industry. I have prepared a detailed summary of the outcome, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Fishing Vessels

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial assistance her Department plans to provide to increase the number of boats in the UK fishing fleet using netting which diminishes the levels of fish discards in each of the next four years. [39540]

**Richard Benyon:** The Government aim to continue reducing discards from the UK fishing fleet. We actively support and encourage innovation and uptake of more selective fishing gears by fishing vessels.

Fishermen are eligible to apply to the Marine Management Organisation for matched funding from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) in order to develop or purchase more selective gear types. Applications to the Fund should actively support the aims and objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy and fishing sustainably from the marine environment.

In addition, on the 15 November 2010, £1 million (EFF and matched funding) was made specifically available to the English inshore fleet to encourage innovative projects, with one theme being environmentally sustainable fishing. Applications for this fund should be made before 31 March 2011, although supporting innovation remains a key objective of the EFF.

### Forestry Commission: Bristol

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the change in the number of posts in the Bristol office of the Forestry Commission as a result of Government proposals on the sale of forests. [39327]

**Mr Paice:** We are currently consulting on the future ownership and management of the public forest estate in England. The consultation document also sets out a future focus for the Forestry Commission in England. It is too early to say what the impact may be on staff based in the England National Office in Bristol. Quite separately, the Forestry Commission is also consulting staff on new structures in response to the spending review.

### Public Forest Estate

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she proposes to introduce conditions to the sale of the forest estate to restrict its future use to arboreal purposes. [38582]

**Mr Paice:** I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State's written statement of 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 21WS.

To restrict future use of the public forest estate to arboreal purposes would mean that facilities like mountain bike trails and visitor centres which provide considerable public benefits would no longer be permitted. Our commitment is to protect the public benefits that are currently provided by the public forest estate. The consultation on the future ownership and management of the public forest estate sets out and invites views on the proposals for protecting these benefits as well as for future ownership and management models. The protection of public benefits is a key factor in the criteria governing sales that are completed before the consultation is concluded.

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the volume of wood consumed in the UK was placed on the market from the public forest estate in the latest period for which figures are available. [39130]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The apparent consumption of wood in the UK in 2009 measured as wood raw material equivalent underbark (volume of wood excluding the bark) and reported in Forestry Statistics 2010 was 43.8 million cubic metres.

Production from the Forestry Commission public forest estate in England in 2009 was estimated as 1.26 million cubic metres underbark, in Scotland 2.72 million cubic metres underbark and in Wales 0.71 cubic metres underbark. In total that is 4.69 million cubic metres underbark, less than 11% of apparent UK consumption.

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of timber (a) of each species and (b) from each forest in the public forest estate in England was placed on the market in the latest period for which figures are available; and what average price was achieved in each case. [39301]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The following table lists volume of timber harvested (by direct production and by standing sales), and the combined average price achieved in each Forestry Commission Forest District for the 2009-10 financial year. Figures are not held for individual species.

Price is £ per cubic metre overbark standing (m³ obs)

| Forest district    | Softwood volume¹ (m³ obs) | Average price (£) | Hardwood volume¹ (m³ obs) | Average price (£) |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Sherwood           | 54,000                    | 13.43             | 3,000                     | 18.66             |
| East Anglia        | 162,000                   | 18.27             | 4,000                     | 24.75             |
| Northants          | 36,000                    | 7.89              | 9,000                     | 10.56             |
| North East England | 599,000                   | 16.33             | 0                         | 0                 |

| Forest district    | Price is £ per cubic metre overbark standing (m³ obs) |                   |                           |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
|                    | Softwood volume¹ (m³ obs)                             | Average price (£) | Hardwood volume¹ (m³ obs) | Average price (£) |
| North West England | 81,000                                                | 16.04             | 1,000                     | 2.00              |
| North York Moors   | 125,000                                               | 15.81             | 2,000                     | 9.50              |
| South East England | 94,000                                                | 13.57             | 22,000                    | 10.23             |
| New Forest         | 91,000                                                | 16.03             | 13,000                    | 10.07             |
| West Midlands      | 94,000                                                | 15.39             | 5,000                     | 19.20             |
| Peninsula          | 90,000                                                | 10.14             | 4,000                     | 5.75              |
| Forest of Dean     | 53,000                                                | 15.83             | 18,000                    | 14.16             |
| Total              | 1,479,000                                             |                   | 81,000                    |                   |

¹ Volume rounded to the nearest thousand.

#### Forests: Schools

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many (a) school and (b) other groups visited Forestry Commission woodlands in the last 12 months. [38691]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** The Forestry Commission's current estimate is that around 170,000 people each year participate in education and learning activities across the public forest estate in England. Information on other group visits is not held centrally and local records are limited to those groups that applied and were granted permission for organised events that fell within the scope of the Forestry Commission's permissions policy.

#### Forests: Deciduous and Coniferous Trees

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of (a) Forestry Commission woodlands and (b) other commercial woodlands in Yorkshire and the Humber are planted with (i) deciduous and (ii) coniferous trees. [38692]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** As at 31 March 2010 the Forestry Commission public forest estate in Yorkshire and the Humber comprised 14,742 hectares of land that were mainly conifers, 2,644 hectares of land that were mainly broadleaves and 4,295 hectares of other land. This includes open habitats and land waiting to be restocked after felling.

Other woodland in the same region, as recorded in the National Inventory of Woodland and Trees (2002) comprised 16,537 hectares of conifers, 34,907 hectares of broadleaves, and 12,029 hectares of mixed woodland. An additional 4,978 hectares was recorded as shrub, young trees and felled.

#### Horses: Animal Welfare

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effect of changes to the budget for funding to (a) passport-issuing organisations and (b) the National Equine Database on the (i) effectiveness of the horse passport scheme and (ii) welfare of horses; and if she will make a statement. [40651]

**Mr Paice:** We are currently considering the Government's requirements in respect of horse passports and associated data. In the meantime, we do not envisage any changes to the functions of existing authorised passport issuing organisations or the National Equine Database.

#### Public Forest Estate: Christchurch

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the open market value of the Forestry Commission estate in Christchurch constituency. [38835]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** The current book value of the woodland on the public forest estate in Christchurch constituency is £4,112,556. No estimate has been made of the open market value.

#### Public Forest Estate: Yorkshire and Humber

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the (a) name and (b) ordnance survey map reference is of each (i) visitor centre and (ii) other staffed public information point on Forestry Commission land in Yorkshire and the Humber; and how many members of the public visited each such facility in the last 12 months. [38690]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** The Forestry Commission has one visitor centre in Yorkshire and the Humber region at Dalby, Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SE 855 878. It was estimated that more than 223,000 visits were made to this site in 2009-10. It has no other staffed public information points in the region, although information is available to the public from its offices in Pickering and York.

#### Livestock: Transport

**Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sea-going vessels are currently licensed by her Department under the rules for transporting animals which came into force on 5 January 2007. [39322]

**Mr Paice:** Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, as implemented in England by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and equivalent legislation in the devolved administrations, only requires sea-going vessels to be licensed for animal transportation if they are designed for animals to walk on and off. No vessel of this type has been licensed by Animal Health. However, such a vessel may be licensed by a competent authority in another member state and operate into/out of a UK port.

Animals may be transported in other sea-going vessels, such as on roll on, roll off ferries and specialised livestock containers. Although these do not need formal licensing under the legislation there are various technical rules relating to the welfare of the animals during transport. In Great Britain, compliance is monitored by Animal Health to ensure that both vessels and operators meet legislative requirements.



### Meat: Food Labelling

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made on bringing forward legislative proposals for the labelling of meat in respect of (a) method of slaughter, (b) method of rearing and (c) name of the abattoir of slaughter.

[40311]

**Mr Paice:** No legislative proposals have been made in relation to labelling meat in respect of method of slaughter, method of rearing and name of the slaughterhouse where slaughter was carried out. However we are aware of the considerable public interest in this issue.

People should know what they are buying in shops or when they are eating out, and I have had discussions with the supermarkets, and the food and catering industries about the role labelling and point of sale information can play in giving consumers a greater choice. This is a difficult, complex and sensitive issue that cannot easily be resolved in view of the many competing interests involved.

We will be looking at this further, but will need to consider the impact of existing EU meat labelling Regulations on our ability to propose national method of slaughter labelling carefully, before any final decisions are taken.

### Nature Conservation: British Overseas Territories

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support her Department plans to provide for the eradication and management of invasive species in British overseas territories.

[40837]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA's Darwin Initiative is currently supporting three projects on invasive species in UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs). The first is developing knowledge to eradicate house mice across three UKOTs. The second is looking at protecting galaxiids from salmonid invasions in the Falkland Islands. The third is reducing the impact of feral livestock in Montserrat.

In 2009-10 DEFRA funded a pilot project to make the invertebrate plant pest diagnostic expertise of our Food and Environment Research Agency available to certain UKOTs. The project was highly successful in identifying a number of previously unreported non-native species in the UKOTs and some species possibly new to science. This year the project was extended to all UKOTs.

DEFRA is also supporting a project on Jost Van Dyke island in the British Virgin Islands on the management of mongooses and feral cats in order to safeguard globally threatened species. The project also includes a training workshop for the region.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), announced in Nagoya in October 2010 that DEFRA would be contributing £200,000 towards a project being co-ordinated by the RSPB to eradicate rats from Henderson Island in the Pitcairn group, where invasive rats have been bringing endangered species such as the endemic Henderson petrel to the brink of extinction.

Over the next few weeks, DEFRA intends to issue research contracts to quantify the impact of invasive species in UKOTs and to develop solutions to address these impacts. The research competition has been under way for some months now; all proposals have full support of the relevant OT Government and involve collaboration with at least one organisation based in that territory.

In addition to the role DEFRA plays in the UK's Overseas Territories, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID) play a pivotal role. Funding from FCO and DFID continues through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). The programme supports the implementation of the environment charters and environmental management more generally in the UKOTs, but has tended to focus on biodiversity conservation in view of the rich biodiversity that the UKOTs support.

### Nature Reserves

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure the sustainability of national nature reserves.

[40267]

**Richard Benyon:** National nature reserves make an important and valuable contribution to the Government's biodiversity objectives, and to the public's understanding and appreciation of the natural environment. We are looking at ways to ensure that future management enhances their contribution, both at the national and local levels. National nature reserves are some of our most precious wildlife sites and we will not take any risks with their future.

### Public Forest Estate: New Forest

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to ensure (a) access to Forestry Commission land by the New Forest Hunt and (b) that such access should be protected by law in the event of any disposal of such land.

[39029]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 8 February 2011]: We are committed to protecting the public benefits that are currently provided by the public forest estate. The current consultation on the future ownership and management of the public forest estate in England sets out and invites views on the proposals for protecting these benefits. The whole of the New Forest has been given the indicative categorisation as 'heritage' on the map that accompanies the consultation document. This categorisation recognises the special character and traditions of the area, which we would maintain through any new ownership or management arrangement.

### Pesticides

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect the insect population from the effects of neonicotinoids and other similar pesticides.

[39392]

**Mr Paice:** Under European legislation, pesticide active substances are first evaluated at Community level. A key part of this process is an assessment of the risks to wildlife, including bees. If an active substance meets the EU safety requirements then products containing that active substance can be authorised at member state level, taking into account that country's individual agronomic, climatic and dietary requirements.

In the UK, pesticide products can only be sold or used after they have been authorised. As part of this process, the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (the Government body responsible for regulating pesticides) undertakes an assessment of the toxicity of each product and the ways in which spray operators, the public or environment (in particular honey bees) may be exposed. The purpose being to ensure that the use of the product poses no unacceptable risks.

The controls extend to the use of products and CRD routinely restricts the way products can be used (e.g. specifying dose rates, timing and place of application) to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Users are also legally obliged to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants. Advice on how this can be done is set out in a statutory "Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products" which, among other things, contains guidance on minimising the exposure of bees to pesticides.

#### Poultry

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the number of laying hens in certified organic premises. [39240]

**Mr Paice:** In 2009, the most recent year for which figures are available, there were a total of 1,417,041 laying hens in certified organic premises in the UK.

#### Sewage: Railways

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ask the Environment Agency (a) to test railway tracks at Liverpool street station to ensure that train operators are complying with all necessary legal requirements regarding the discharging of sewage and (b) to assess the potential hazard to human health of such discharges. [40557]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency carried out an inspection of the tracks at Liverpool street station on 21 January 2011. At that time there was no evidence of a breach of the legal requirements, or a significant risk of pollution or harm to human health from the discharge of sewage onto the tracks. The Environment Agency will continue to monitor the situation, and is working with the train operating company and others to ensure they are aware of their legal obligations.

#### Squirrels

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants her Department has paid to private landowners for the purposes of controlling the grey squirrel population. [39906]

**Richard Benyon:** The Forestry Commission awards Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) funding for woodland management (including pest control) through the English Woodland Grant Scheme. DEFRA is the managing authority for the RDPE and is responsible for its implementation under EU law. The amount of grant money spent on grey squirrel control is not recorded separately from other grant aided woodland management activities.

#### Trapping

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals were used in her Department's research project to determine the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales; and how many of those were (a) injured and (b) killed during the research project. [39878]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The trial ran from 2008 until 2010. In the research project "Determining the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales", a total of 88 animals were used. Of these, two animals were found with visible injuries and were euthanized, four were found dead and a further 43 animals were found alive, then euthanized to allow detailed post mortem examination to determine whether or not they were injured; no injuries were found in these animals.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the research project commissioned by her Department to determine the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales plans to publish its report. [39939]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** We expect to publish the report in 2011 but as yet have no firm date.

#### Trees: Infectious Diseases

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to increase the protection of trees from infection from diseases from abroad. [38550]

**Mr Paice:** To prevent new pests and diseases arriving in trade, all imports of trees from third countries are subject to inspection for known pests and diseases under the EU Plant Health regime; import controls are updated on the basis of risks identified through pest risk analysis. Consignments of some tree species moved within the European Union are covered by plant passports issued by the grower to attest to the health status of the trees. Given concerns about the efficacy of these measures, the entire EU Plant Health regime is currently undergoing a major review and we will be working to ensure that the level of security under the new arrangements is fit for purpose. In the context of the review the UK is pushing for faster decision making so that risks are tackled when first identified, as well as improved controls which take into account the risks inherent in trade in plants and plant products.

In addition we are developing improved techniques for risk assessment, improved diagnostic methods and detection practices through research programmes.

Whenever a new risk is identified, either through horizon scanning or detection through inspection, national powers to impose emergency import restrictions are available.

#### Timber: Imports

**Mr Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of introducing measures to make the import or possession of illegally logged timber a criminal offence. [39607]

**Mr Paice:** We are committed to eliminating illegal timber from the UK market. We will therefore put in place the necessary legislation to implement the provisions of the EU Illegal Timber Regulation in the United Kingdom by 3 March 2013 in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation. The Regulation prohibits the first-placing of illegal timber on the EU market which will restrict its purchase, possession and sale down the supply chain. Implementation will include putting in place a robust and proportionate enforcement regime, including appropriate penalties.

**Mr Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to change the objectives of EU timber regulations to make it an offence to sell illegally-felled timber in the UK. [39608]

**Mr Paice:** The EU Illegal Timber Regulation was adopted in October 2010, and will enter into force on 3 March 2013. We are now focusing on robust and proportionate implementation and enforcement of the Regulation, including the prohibition on placing illegally harvested timber and timber products onto the EU market. I am confident that this will mean that illegal timber is unavailable for sale or purchase down the supply chain, thereby eliminating illegally harvested timber and timber products from the UK market.

**Mr Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on support for any of the provisions of the Illegally Logged Timber (Prohibition of Import, Sale or Distribution) Bill. [39609]

**Mr Paice:** Tackling the trade in illegal timber is a priority for the Government, and we fully support the underlying aims of the hon. Member for Brighton Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) in her Illegally Logged Timber Bill. But the Government cannot support the proposed Bill, because it does not take into account measures already being taken to eradicate illegal timber from the UK market. The EU illegal timber regulation will prohibit the first placing of illegal timber onto the EU market, and will enable timber imports to be tracked down the supply chain.

#### FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

##### British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many reports he has received of murders of British nationals

overseas since 1 November 2010; and how many families of those murdered have been referred to the Victim Support network by his Department. [39153]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Under a recent arrangement with the Victim Support National Homicide Service, consular staff now notify Victim Support within 24 hours of receiving information of the murder of a British national abroad where the bereaved family are resident in England or Wales. Consular staff will then advise the family of the service provided by Victim Support and, with the family's consent, a Victim Support caseworker will contact them to arrange a meeting. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been notified of ten murders of British nationals abroad between 1 November 2010 and 31 January 2011. Six of these fall within the terms of this arrangement and have been notified to Victim Support.

##### British Nationals Abroad: Victim Support Schemes

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to host a roundtable meeting for hon. Members to discuss support provided to the families of victims of murder and manslaughter abroad. [40175]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I am planning to host a round table discussion with interested parliamentarians to discuss the support provided to the families of victims of murder and manslaughter abroad. We are committed to finding a sustainable way to do more to support the families of homicide victims abroad, and will focus our efforts on improving the emotional and practical support provided by consular staff abroad.

##### China: Zimbabwe

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of China on Chinese support for Zimbabwe. [40688]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have an active programme of engagement with China on Africa issues, including an annual official-level UK-China dialogue on Africa. The most recent round took place in Beijing in October 2010 and Zimbabwe was raised.

The Government emphasised to China the need for balanced support of Zimbabwe's coalition Government, and the importance of business being conducted transparently.

##### Departmental Art Works

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department issues on the display of the portrait of HM the Queen in (a) embassies, (b) high commissions and (c) other Government buildings overseas. [40297]

**Alistair Burt:** A colour reproduction of a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, painted by William Narraway in 1977, has been approved by Her Majesty for display at diplomatic service establishments abroad. We expect all major Foreign and Commonwealth Office buildings to display this.



### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on hospitality since May 2010. [34670]

**Alistair Burt:** Between May and December 2010, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent £3,788,865 in the UK and abroad on business hospitality in support of our foreign policy priorities. All such expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Egypt: Politics and Government

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens based in Egypt have contacted his Department in the last three weeks. [40294]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s dedicated telephone lines handled more than 5,500 calls from a range of callers between 30 January 2011 and 7 February 2011. These included calls originating from within Egypt as well as the UK. More than 150 email enquiries related to Egypt were received during this period. The FCO's Egypt travel advice pages received on average more than 56,000 visitors per day between 25 January 2011 and 9 February 2011. Between 25 January 2011 and 10 February 2011, 683 comments relating to Egypt were received on the 'British Abroad' and 'UK in Egypt' Facebook pages.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals who used the flights from Egypt chartered by his Department have (a) paid and (b) not yet paid for the flight. [40295]

**Alistair Burt:** In line with standard industry practice, children under two years old travelled free on the charter flights that left Egypt on 3 and 5 February 2011. Passengers under the age of 16 were charged a reduced price. Undertakings to repay were signed for all British nationals and dependants who were required to pay. Our records show that the two charter flights carried 196 British nationals. As of 10 February 2011, repayment cheques had been received for eight passengers.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many (a) British nationals and (b) non-British nationals have (i) signed up for and (ii) used flights from Egypt chartered by his Department. [40296]

**Alistair Burt:** A total of 556 British nationals and dependants registered an interest in the charter flights. 247 subsequently decided that they did not require a seat. Others could not be contacted or failed to present themselves for the flight. Our records show that the charter flights carried 222 British nationals and dependants, of which 196 were British nationals and 26 non-British nationals.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what cost his Department has incurred on chartering aircraft to Egypt to evacuate British nationals. [40432]

**Alistair Burt:** The cost of chartering two flights on 3 and 5 February 2011 from Cairo to London Gatwick totalled £178,894.

### EU Law

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs into which measures the UK has exercised an opt-in under EU legislative arrangements since May 2010; and which further such measures have been proposed in that period in respect of which the possibility of a UK opt-in has arisen. [39568]

**Mr Lidington:** Since May 2010 the Government have taken a total of 14 opt-in decisions which represented a final UK decision on participation in an EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) measure. We have opted in to eight and not opted in to six decisions. The UK has additionally opted into three negotiating mandates to third country agreements. It should be noted that opt-ins to negotiating mandates enable us to influence the mandate but do not commit the UK to participating in the eventual agreements, as we have further opt-ins on signature and conclusion of the agreements—therefore they are not included in our running totals. These decisions on negotiating mandate are listed as follows:

Council Decision on the negotiating mandate for an EU-US Agreement on Passenger Name Records; opted in (negotiating mandate only)

Council Decision on the negotiating mandate for an EU-Australia Agreement on Passenger Name Records; (negotiating mandate only)

Council Decision on the negotiating mandate for an EU-Canada Agreement on Passenger Name Records; (negotiating mandate only)

All opt-in decisions taken between 1 December 2009 and 30 November 2010 are set out in the annual report to Parliament on the opt-in, which was tabled as a command paper on 21 January 2011. As above, the annual report counted an opt-in as a final UK decision on participation in a measure - for this reason the figures in the annual report exclude separate opt-in decisions on negotiating mandates and signing. The annual report also included additional information on Schengen opt-out decisions.

In addition, since 30 November 2010, the Government have opted into the following proposals:

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Attacks against Information Systems;

Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Establishment of EURODAC.

Also since 30 November 2010, the Government have not opted in to the following proposal:

Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken by the EU in EEA joint Committee concerning an amendment to Annex VI (social security) and protocol 37 to the EEA agreement.

The following proposals have been adopted by the Commission and will be subject to the opt-in:

Proposal for an Agreement between the EU and Belarus on readmissions (deadline 16 February 2011)

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council facilitating cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety (deadline 23 February 2011)

Proposal to repeal and replace Regulation 44/2001 (Brussels I) on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (deadline 17 March 2011)

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on EU Passenger Name Records (deadline 2 May 2011).

#### Gilad Shalit

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department, (c) officials in his Department and (d) British Embassy staff in Israel have had since December 2010 with the family of Gilad Shalit; what meetings are planned during the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [39615]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer my hon. Friend to the response given by my noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford to my noble Friend, Baroness Tonge, on 25 January 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA139.

Our embassy officials in Tel Aviv are in touch with Gilad Shalit's parents and their representatives whenever there is a development on his case and have held a number of meetings with them. We are always open to any requests for meetings and offering assistance wherever it is feasible.

#### Guinea: Human Rights

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the development of democracy and respect for human rights in Guinea. [40687]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK welcomes the return to democratic rule in Guinea and is actively engaged with EU counterparts in Brussels and United Nations colleagues, with the African Union and with the Economic Community of West African States to develop democracy and respect for human rights. As a key member of the International Contact Group the UK continues to work with and support the new Government. As the Government takes further steps towards further entrenching democracy, the EU will progressively unblock development funds suspended when the military seized power in 2008. We have also recently set up UK projects working with non-governmental organisation youth leaders on deepening democracy, improving human rights and civilian/military relations. We will continue to monitor the human rights situation closely.

#### Hong Kong: Passports

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens are employed in the Regional Passport Processing Centre in Hong Kong. [40697]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** All employees recruited into the Regional Passport Processing Centre in Hong Kong are either British citizens or Commonwealth citizens. This figure includes UK civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

#### Israel: EU External Relations

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of Israel's compliance with the requirements of Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement; [40659]

(2) what discussions he has had with the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on her assessment of Israel's compliance with the requirements of Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. [40660]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK has regular discussions with its EU partners on a number of issues related to the middle east peace process including the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

The EU has made clear that any upgrade of this agreement must be linked to progress on the middle east peace process. We continue to support this view and to underline this point in discussions with EU partners.

#### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) on 21 December 2010 with regard to Mr P Walsh. [41272]

**Mr Lidington:** The letter from the right hon. Member was transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions on 19 January 2011.

#### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr Robin Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from non-governmental organisations in (a) Palestine and (b) Israel on the proposed changes to transparency legislation in Israel. [39863]

**Alistair Burt:** Following a Knesset decision to examine setting up a parliamentary panel of inquiry, we are aware that some organisations may face probes into their funding. As the first stage, a Committee in the Knesset approved two non-governmental organisation panels on 2 February 2011. The Knesset are likely to formally approve this next week. Our embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate General in Jerusalem have had contacts with a number of non-governmental organisations on these issues.

Our ambassador to Tel Aviv discussed the issue with the Israeli ambassador to the UK, Ron Prosor, shortly after the Knesset vote. Officials raised this with one of the two Members of the Knesset who had pressed for these panels (she is also the proposed chair of one of them) and underlined our concerns to her.

We attach importance to the values set out in Israel's Declaration of Independence and basic laws, including the need to respect civil liberties. We are concerned by anything that could detract from these and will be watching this debate carefully.

**Palestinians: Embassies**

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the future status of the Palestinian General Delegation in the UK. [40658]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer the hon. Member to my response of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 704W, to the hon. Member for Hendon (Mr Offord).

**Palestinians: Politics and Government**

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with his UN Security Council counterparts on the (a) conduct of the Hamas administration and (b) security needs of UN workers in the Gaza Strip; [39355]

(2) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts about the Hamas administration of the Gaza Strip. [39356]

**Alistair Burt:** Our officials have regular dialogue with the UN regarding a number of human rights issues: this includes abuses carried out by members of Hamas. On 19 January 2011 the Security Council held its monthly debate on the middle east in which they discussed the situation in Gaza and the wider middle east.

The Government are also in regular dialogue with EU counterparts with regard to Gaza. The EU is focused on opening up Gaza's borders to allow greater freedom of movement of people and goods to facilitate the rejuvenation of Gaza's economy.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, raised these issues with Prime Minister Netanyahu when he visited Israel in November. I discussed Gaza at length with the Israeli Co-ordinator for Government Activity in the Territories, General Dangot, when I visited the region on 16-19 January 2011.

We continue to call on Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the quartet principles—unconditionally to release Gilad Shalit, who has been held in captivity for over four years.

**Said Musa**

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Afghanistan on the (a) detention and (b) potential release from a prison in Kabul of Said Musa. [40821]

**Alistair Burt:** We are working with international partners to monitor developments and to raise this case with the Afghan Government. During his visit to Afghanistan in January, the UK Attorney-General, the right hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr Grieve), also raised this case with the Afghan Attorney General.

We continue to remind the Afghan Government of their duty to abide by their national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief and to respect the freedom of worship as enshrined in the Afghan constitution.

**Taiwan: Working Holidays**

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on establishing a working holiday agreement with Taiwan; and if he will make a statement. [40120]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We are aware of Taiwan's desire to establish a working holiday agreement, but no substantive discussions have to date taken place. The UK operates a single generic Youth Mobility scheme (YMS) to enhance cultural exchanges between young people. All YMS participant countries need to meet certain eligibility criteria, including demonstrating a low level of immigration risk, a satisfactory returns arrangement with the UK and reciprocal opportunities for UK nationals. The Home Office are the lead Government Department on YMS.

**Uganda: Elections**

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the forthcoming elections in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [40950]

**Alistair Burt:** I have received regular reports on all aspects of the electoral process from our high commission in Kampala.

Our overall assessment is that the Government of Uganda have made some progress in improving the framework for elections, including amendments to electoral legislation and a comprehensive update of the voter register, partly in response to the recommendations of the EU and other observation missions to the 2006 elections. It is also notable that the run-up to these elections has been more peaceful than in 2006. However, we remain concerned that the playing field between the governing and opposition parties is uneven, and that levels of trust in the Ugandan Electoral Commission are low.

The UK and other donors have undertaken a wide range of activities to encourage these improvements, including capacity building support for the Ugandan Electoral Commission, media and political parties via the Deepening Democracy Programme. We are fully supporting the activities of observation missions from the EU, Commonwealth and other international and domestic bodies. Furthermore, we have also emphasised the importance that we attach to free and fair elections to the Government of Uganda (including to President Museveni) and have urged both the Government and opposition parties to engage constructively in the process.

**Vietnam: Human Rights**

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Vietnam on respect for human rights in that country; and if he will make a statement. [40683]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The UK takes every opportunity to raise human rights issues with the Vietnamese Government. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised human rights when he



met Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Gia Khiem on 8 September 2010 in London. I also raised human rights with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Quoc Cuong on 21 December 2010, as did the Deputy Prime Minister with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit on 4 October 2010 in Brussels.

We also work closely with our EU partners to highlight our shared human rights concerns. On 10 December 2010, our ambassador to Vietnam participated in the biannual EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue in Hanoi. Our ambassador also raises human rights issues with the Vietnamese Government bilaterally.

#### Western Sahara: Fisheries

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask the European Commission to provide evidence that the Saharawi people have benefited from the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement before he agrees to any extension of the agreement. [41034]

**Alistair Burt:** We understand that Morocco presented evidence to the European Commission on the distribution of the benefits of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) in mid-December 2010. This evidence is being analysed by the Commission. At a senior level meeting in Brussels on 9 February 2011, we asked the Commission to let member states view the evidence.

Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under its administration do not adversely affect the interests of the people in Western Sahara. The FPA is due to expire on 27 February 2011 and negotiations on an extension of the FPA will take into account any changes in the situation since it was first agreed.

#### Western Sahara: Human Rights

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Moroccan counterpart the duty of Morocco under the Fourth Geneva Convention to protect the human rights of the inhabitants of Western Sahara. [41135]

**Alistair Burt:** We are concerned that the conflict in Western Sahara remains unresolved, and of the impact this has on the humanitarian situation in the region. Our Ministers and officials regularly discuss human rights with their Moroccan counterparts, including the human rights situation in Western Sahara. I raised the issue of Western Sahara in my meetings with Moroccan Ministers during my visit to Morocco in December 2010. During our discussions, I urged the Government of Morocco to consider the benefits of a human rights monitoring presence on the ground as the best way to ensure a balanced picture of conditions in the disputed territory.

I am encouraged that Morocco and the Polisario met in Geneva from 9-10 February 2011 under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees where they agreed to extend the programme of confidence building measures.

## HEALTH

### NHS: Legislative Framework

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to *Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps*, Cm 7993, paragraph 6.39, when he expects the work programme for the Foundation Trust pipeline to be published. [41013]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Since "*Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps*" was published in December 2010, work has continued at national, local and regional level to determine the actions that will be required to support all national health service trusts achieve foundation trust status by April 2014. Agreements are being established, and published, by the spring that will detail the planned trajectory of work required for each NHS trust to meet the April 2014 deadline.

### Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs: Misuse

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 221-22W, on alcoholic drinks and drugs: misuse, if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the effects of levels of youth unemployment on future demand for treatment. [40331]

**Anne Milton:** Professor Sir Michael Marmot's review of health inequalities, *'Fair Society, Healthy Lives'* (2010) commissioned by the Department found that:

"There is a significant positive correlation between the prevalence of problematic drug users aged 15-64 years and the deprivation indices of a local authority."

The index of multiple deprivation takes into account employment deprivation.

The Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health are jointly responsible for delivering the recovery ambition set out in the Government's Drug Strategy. There is close collaboration between the Departments at both official and ministerial level as we seek to rebalance the treatment system for drug and alcohol dependence within a recovery framework.

As set out in our white paper *'Healthy Live's Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England'*, Public Health England (PHE) will work to address the root cause of ill health and highlights that:

'wider factors that shape the health and well-being of individuals, families and local communities—such as education, employment and the environment—also need to be addressed in order to tackle health inequalities'

The White Paper sets out in further detail the steps PHE will take in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions to tackle these inequalities and help to reduce the future burden on health services including drug and alcohol treatment systems.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of long-term trends in the proportion of alcohol-dependent individuals aged (a) 16 and 19 and (b) between 20 and 24. [40362]

**Anne Milton:** The Department estimates alcohol dependence by reference to a score of 16 or more on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)<sup>1</sup>. This definition is consistent with that used in the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP) published in 2005. ANARP used a cut-off score on the AUDIT of 16 to identify 'moderately or severely dependent' drinkers.

The estimate has been made using data from the adult psychiatric morbidity survey (APMS), 'Psychiatric morbidity among adults living in private households, 2000', published in 2001 and 'Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007', published in 2009<sup>2</sup>.

In 2000, we estimated that 5.2% of 16 to 19 years old were alcohol dependent, in 2007, the estimated proportion was 4.7%. In 2000, it was estimated that 8.1% of 20 to 24 years old were alcohol dependent, in 2007, the estimated proportion was 8.3%. Neither of the changes in the estimated proportions between 2000 and 2007 is statistically significant.

<sup>1</sup> AUDIT was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a method of screening for excessive drinking and to help identify alcohol dependence. It consists of 10 questions about recent alcohol use, alcohol dependence symptoms, and alcohol-related problems.

<sup>2</sup> The Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey covers adults living in private households in England. It includes information on the prevalence of alcohol use and dependence by age, sex, region and other factors for 2000 and 2007.

### Breast Surgery

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women had breast reduction operations funded by the NHS in each primary care trust in each of the last five years; [40320]

(2) what the eligibility criteria are for women to have a breast reduction operation on the NHS. [40321]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The available information has been placed in the Library. Figures for 2005-06 are given separately from those for the following four years because there was a major reorganisation of primary care trust areas between the two periods.

Individual commissioners are responsible for deciding on local policies on the treatments which would generally be made available to national health service patients, and for setting up transparent arrangements for considering requests for treatment in exceptional cases for individual patients. General guidance on the principles which should underlie these decisions was set out in a letter and accompanying directions of March 2009 from the chief executive of the NHS to chief executives of primary care trusts. Guidance on possible criteria for breast reduction surgery was published by the former Modernisation Agency in March 2005.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 221-22W, on alcoholic drinks and drugs: misuse, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the reduction in the number of 18 to 24-year-olds in drug treatment between 2005-06 and 2009-10. [39911]

**Anne Milton:** There has been a decrease in the numbers of young people using drugs. In 2009-10, 20% of 16 to 24-year-olds in England had used one or more illicit drug in the last year, compared with 25.2% in 2005-06.<sup>1</sup>

In addition the latest national estimates of the prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use in England produced by the university of Glasgow and the university of Manchester show a decrease in use by those aged under-25, from 60,672 in 2006-07 to 55,145 in 2008-09.

<sup>1</sup> Source:

Statistics on Drug Misuse, England 2010, published by the National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care in January 2011.

### General Practitioners: EU Law

**Andrew Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP consortia will be subject to European Union (a) competition and (b) public procurement law. [38755]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The prohibitions of anti-competitive behaviours under the Competition Act 1998 could potentially apply to general practitioner (GP) consortia, but only to the extent a GP consortia was acting as an 'undertaking' for the purposes of the Act, which may be unlikely to occur in practice, although the competent authorities (i.e. Monitor or the Office of Fair Trading (OFT)) would be obliged to consider any individual complaint on its merits. The OFT has published the following statement on the definition of 'undertaking' for these purposes:

"It covers any natural or legal person engaged in economic activity, regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed. It includes companies, firms, businesses, partnerships, individuals operating as sole traders, agricultural co-operatives, associations of undertakings (e.g. trade associations), non profit-making organisations and (in some circumstances) public entities that offer goods or services on a given market. The key consideration in assessing whether an entity is an undertaking for the application of Article 81 and/or the Chapter I prohibition is whether it is engaged in economic activity. An entity may engage in economic activity in relation to some of its functions but not others." (Agreements and concerted practices: understanding competition law; Office of Fair Trading; 2004; paragraph 2.5)

Further guidance on prohibitions of anti-competitive behaviour and investigations and enforcement action under the Competition Act 1998 is published on the OFT website at:

[www.offt.gov.uk/about-the-offt/legal-powers/legal/competition-act-1998/](http://www.offt.gov.uk/about-the-offt/legal-powers/legal/competition-act-1998/)

In addition, the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 would also apply to the purchasing activities of GP consortia, as public contracting authorities, in the same way it already applies to primary care trusts.

### Health Services: Social Enterprises

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential future role of (a) community social enterprise and (b) corporate social enterprise in delivering NHS services. [40204]

**Paul Burstow:** No assessment has been made of the future role of community and corporate social enterprises. The White Paper and Command Paper set out the Government's commitment to allowing patients to choose

any health care provider for the majority of national health service-funded services. We are therefore keen to remove potential barriers to fair competition. In light of this we want to ensure that social enterprises, particularly those established under the right to request, are in a position to add value to current services, and that commissioners, through a range of providers, offer choice and quality to patients, as well as value for money.

The Government are committed to giving public sector workers new 'rights to provide' services as employee-owned mutuals and bid to take over the services they deliver. Proposals for how NHS staff can use this new 'right to provide' are currently being developed.

### Maternity Services

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of its review of the Making it Better Maternity programme. [40148]

**Anne Milton:** This is a matter for the local national health service and as such the information requested is not held centrally. The North West Strategic Health Authority led the review of the Making it Better programme. The cost of the review can be obtained from the Making it Better implementation team direct, through the North West Strategic Health Authority.

### NHS: Compensation

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS Litigation Authority claims valued above £500,000 were settled by (a) lump sum and (b) period payments in the last five years; and what the value is of each such claim. [40223]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on how many NHS Litigation Authority claims valued above £500,000 were settled by lump sum and periodical payments in the last five years is shown in the following table.

| Year of settlement | Claims settled as a periodic payment | Claims settled as a lump sum | Total claims |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 2005-06            | 56                                   | 108                          | 164          |
| 2006-07            | 66                                   | 84                           | 150          |
| 2007-08            | 82                                   | 102                          | 184          |
| 2008-09            | 131                                  | 77                           | 208          |
| 2009-10            | 129                                  | 124                          | 253          |
| Total              | 464                                  | 495                          | 959          |

A table to show the value of claims over £500,000 has been placed in the Library.

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients aged (a) 0 to 17, (b) 18 to 65 and (c) over 65 years at the date of award were receiving damages payments under a periodical payment order awarded against the NHS Litigation Authority on 31 March (i) 2005 and (ii) 2010. [40224]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table shows the number of patients receiving a periodic payment as at 31 March 2005 and at 31 March 2010 by age of patient at settlement date.

| Age at settlement | Number of periodic payments |                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
|                   | As at 31 March 2005         | As at 31 March 2010 |
| 0 to 17           | 277                         | 539                 |
| 18 to 65          | 99                          | 261                 |
| Over 66           | 1                           | 12                  |
| Total             | 377                         | 812                 |

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths there have been of claimants receiving payments under a periodical payment order from the NHS Litigation Authority and aged (a) 0 to 17, (b) 18 to 65 and (c) over 65 years at the date of the award in the last five years. [40225]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table shows the number of patients receiving a periodic payment who have died in the last five years.

| Age at settlement | Number of periodic payments |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0 to 17           | 30                          |
| 18 to 65          | 4                           |
| Over 66           | 4                           |
| Total             | 38                          |

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the largest 25 settled claims were under periodical payment orders in each of the last five years; and what the average annual cost of future care was at the date of settlement in respect of such claims. [40226]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information on the average cost of initial annual payment is shown in the following table. The annual payment may cover costs other than care.

| Settlement year | Average of initial annual payment (£) |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2005-06         | 71,002                                |
| 2006-07         | 94,326                                |
| 2007-08         | 99,686                                |
| 2008-09         | 141,241                               |
| 2009-10         | 114,965                               |

#### Notes:

1. The NHS litigation authority have shown the annual periodic payment value as at the point of settlement in each case.
2. Some periodic payment orders have agreed 'caps' in annual payments to recognise changes in the future costs eg at age 18 where 'independence' or university etc. may have a bearing. The table therefore shows the average of the initial annual payment.

The following table shows the largest 25 settled claims under periodical payment orders in each of the last five years. The total value for each estimate is based upon information at the time of settlement.

| Position | 2005-06   | 2006-07   | 2007-08   | 2008-09   | 2009-10   |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1        | 8,300,000 | 6,500,000 | 8,000,000 | 9,750,000 | 8,000,000 |
| 2        | 5,800,000 | 5,750,000 | 7,100,000 | 9,000,000 | 7,700,000 |
| 3        | 5,526,000 | 5,260,000 | 6,858,150 | 8,800,000 | 7,500,000 |
| 4        | 4,800,000 | 5,250,000 | 6,750,000 | 8,558,000 | 7,500,000 |
| 5        | 4,700,000 | 4,800,000 | 6,750,000 | 8,000,000 | 7,300,000 |
| 6        | 4,500,000 | 4,794,855 | 6,630,000 | 7,940,000 | 7,250,000 |
| 7        | 4,500,000 | 4,750,000 | 6,250,000 | 7,750,000 | 7,250,000 |
| 8        | 4,139,000 | 4,700,000 | 6,000,000 | 7,582,000 | 7,158,000 |
| 9        | 4,000,000 | 4,612,510 | 5,750,000 | 7,538,438 | 7,000,000 |



| Position | 2005-06   | 2006-07   | 2007-08   | 2008-09   | 2009-10   |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 10       | 3,988,000 | 4,509,148 | 5,750,000 | 7,500,000 | 6,800,000 |
| 11       | 3,850,000 | 4,500,000 | 5,750,000 | 7,300,000 | 6,765,000 |
| 12       | 3,750,000 | 4,500,000 | 5,650,000 | 7,250,000 | 6,680,000 |
| 13       | 3,710,000 | 4,360,000 | 5,600,000 | 7,200,000 | 6,642,000 |
| 14       | 3,700,000 | 4,358,000 | 5,500,000 | 7,195,484 | 6,500,000 |
| 15       | 3,700,000 | 4,250,000 | 5,458,372 | 7,047,000 | 6,460,000 |
| 16       | 3,636,200 | 3,800,000 | 5,400,000 | 6,600,000 | 6,400,000 |
| 17       | 3,500,000 | 3,800,000 | 5,300,000 | 6,466,293 | 6,317,200 |
| 18       | 3,500,000 | 3,750,000 | 5,200,000 | 6,400,000 | 6,258,770 |
| 19       | 3,500,000 | 3,740,000 | 5,200,000 | 6,200,000 | 6,000,000 |
| 20       | 3,500,000 | 3,650,000 | 5,136,328 | 6,133,000 | 6,000,000 |
| 21       | 3,375,000 | 3,600,000 | 5,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 |
| 22       | 3,250,000 | 3,600,000 | 5,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 5,903,584 |
| 23       | 3,250,000 | 3,500,000 | 4,800,000 | 6,000,000 | 5,855,750 |
| 24       | 3,200,000 | 3,402,251 | 4,667,159 | 5,800,000 | 5,800,226 |
| 25       | 3,100,000 | 3,400,000 | 4,500,000 | 5,800,000 | 5,800,000 |

### NHS: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of (a) active and (b) deferred members of the NHS Pension Scheme are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65. [40273]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is shown in the following table.

| Age range | Percentage     |                  |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|
|           | Active members | Deferred members |
| 20 to 30  | 14             | 6                |
| 31 to 40  | 25             | 24               |
| 41 to 50  | 33             | 40               |
| 51 to 55  | 14             | 15               |
| 56 to 65  | 14             | 13               |

Source: Government Actuary's Department, NHS Pension Scheme valuation data as at 31 March 2008

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of members of the NHS Pension Scheme are (a) (i) part-time and (ii) full-time, (b) (A) male and (B) female and (c) (i) active members and (ii) deferred members/pensioners. [40280]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Data have been provided by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). GAD estimate that the proportion of active members of the NHS Pension Scheme who are part-time is 37% and 63% for full-time. This estimate is based on a comparison of actual salary against whole-time equivalent salary for each member in the valuation data.

23% of active members are male and 77% are female. 51% of the membership are active members and 49% are either deferred members or pensioners.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the NHS Pension Scheme there are. [40323]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The most recent membership figures for the NHS Pension Scheme were published in the 'NHS Pension Scheme and NHS Compensation for retirement Scheme resource Accounts (2009-10)'.

The total membership of the NHS Pension Scheme as at 31 March 2010 included 1,368,215 active members, 524,726 deferred members and 638,610 pensioners, a total of 2,531,551.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assumptions he has made in respect of the dropout rate from the NHS Pension Scheme attributable to (a) potential increases in contributions and (b) its indexation against the consumer prices index; what assessment he has made of the effect of the dropout rate on the future viability of this fund; and if he will make a statement. [40359]

**Mr Simon Burns:** At the spending review the Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that some additional members, amounting to 1% of the value of the paybill, would opt-out of all the public service schemes as a result of the increase in pension contributions.

Further consideration of the effects of this policy on the opt-out rate will be made as part of the process of determining the distribution of increases in contributions across members of the NHS Pension Scheme. We are engaging with employee representatives on the principles to apply across public service schemes and wish to implement change in a way which minimises increases in opt-out rates. The Government have already committed to implementing contribution increases in a progressive way so that higher earners pay higher rates than lower earners.

No assessment has been made of the number of additional members that might opt-out as a result of the change in indexation.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the pension entitlement will be of a member of the NHS Pension Scheme who retires after 30 years' full-time service on a salary of (a) £10,000, (b) £15,000, (c) £20,000, (d) £25,000, (e) £30,000, (f) £40,000 and (g) £50,000 if the pension is uprated in line with (i) the retail prices index and (ii) the consumer prices index. [40372]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The NHS Pension Scheme (England and Wales) has two sections. The 1995 section provides a pension of 1/80th pensionable pay for each year of service together with a lump sum of three times the annual rate of pension. For members of the 2008 section, there is no automatic lump sum and the pension provided is based on 1/60th pensionable pay for each year of service.

These annual pension payments will increase annually in line with legislation. We cannot give figures for these increases because we cannot predict the size of future changes in any indexation measure.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of active members of the NHS Pension Scheme earn (a) between £10,000 and £15,000, (b) between £15,000 and £20,000, (c) between £20,000 and £25,000, (d) between £25,000 and £30,000 and (e) £30,000 and more. [40379]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is shown in the following table.

|                 | Whole-time equivalent earnings | Percentage Actual earnings |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| £10,000-£15,000 | 12                             | 15                         |
| £15,000-£20,000 | 21                             | 18                         |
| £20,000-£25,000 | 16                             | 15                         |
| £25,000-£30,000 | 15                             | 12                         |
| £30,000 or more | 36                             | 28                         |

Source:

Government Actuary's Department, NHS Pension Scheme valuation data as at 31 March 2008

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the NHS Pension Scheme of the proposed indexation according to the consumer prices index (a) in 2010-11 and (b) in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years. [40385]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government have not made any separate estimate of the change in central Government expenditure in 2010-11 or in the next 10, 20, 25 and 30 years for the NHS Pension Scheme as a result of the change to indexation of public service pensions and benefits in line with the consumer prices index.

However, the overall estimated savings in annually managed expenditure over the forecast period for public service pension expenditure were made available in answers to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1193-94W, and the Office of Budgetary Responsibility, responsible for forecasting expenditure on public service pensions, has included the change to indexation in line with the consumer prices index in their methodology.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the administration costs of the NHS Pension Scheme are for 2010-11; and what the costs were in each of the last 12 years. [40394]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is shown in the following table.

| Year ending 31 March | Administration costs (£ million) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1999                 | 12.2                             |

Expenditure per person in England and London

|             |                                              |                                                                       |   | Office for National Statistics (ONS)<br>Population (1,000,000) (Notes c) |         | Cost per person (£) |         |        |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|--------|
| Expenditure |                                              | Total net<br>operating<br>costs<br>London (£<br>billion)<br>(Notes b) |   | Year                                                                     | England | London              | England | London |
| Year        | Net NHS expenditure (£<br>billion) (Notes a) |                                                                       |   |                                                                          |         |                     |         |        |
| 1990-91     | Outturn                                      | 22.326                                                                | — | 1990                                                                     | 47.699  | 6.799               | 468     | —      |
| 1991-92     | Outturn                                      | 25.353                                                                | — | 1991                                                                     | 47.875  | 6.829               | 530     | —      |
| 1992-93     | Outturn                                      | 27.968                                                                | — | 1992                                                                     | 47.998  | 6.829               | 583     | —      |
| 1993-94     | Outturn                                      | 28.942                                                                | — | 1993                                                                     | 48.102  | 6.844               | 602     | —      |
| 1994-95     | Outturn                                      | 30.590                                                                | — | 1994                                                                     | 48.229  | 6.874               | 634     | —      |
| 1995-96     | Outturn                                      | 31.985                                                                | — | 1995                                                                     | 48.383  | 6.913               | 661     | —      |
| 1996-97     | Outturn                                      | 32.997                                                                | — | 1996                                                                     | 48.519  | 6.974               | 680     | —      |
| 1997-98     | Outturn                                      | 34.664                                                                | — | 1997                                                                     | 48.665  | 7.015               | 712     | —      |
| 1998-99     | Outturn                                      | 36.608                                                                | — | 1998                                                                     | 48.821  | 7.065               | 750     | —      |
| 1999-2000   | Outturn                                      | 39.881                                                                | — | —                                                                        | —       | —                   | —       | —      |

| Year ending 31 March | Administration costs (£ million) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2000                 | 15.4                             |
| 2001                 | 17.1                             |
| 2002                 | 18.9                             |
| 2003                 | 19.4                             |
| 2004                 | 19.6                             |
| 2005                 | 23.0                             |
| 2006                 | 27.6                             |
| 2007                 | 23.5                             |
| 2008                 | 21.5                             |
| 2009                 | 21.2                             |
| 2010                 | 21.5                             |

Notes:

1. In 2004, the Student Grants Unit (SGU) merged with NHS Pensions to become one special health authority, and the SGU admin costs are included in the figures for years ending 2005 and 2006. The SGU was then separated out again once NHS Pensions became part of the NHS Business Services Authority.  
2. The figures have been taken from the NHS Pension Scheme Resource Accounts and have not been adjusted for inflation. From 1999 to 2010 the number of active members increased from 959,000 to 1,368,000 and pensioners from 290,000 to 639,000. These figures have been rounded.

Source:

NHS Pensions

## NHS: Per Capita Costs

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of the NHS per person in (a) England and (b) London in each year since 1990; [40405]

(2) what estimate he has made of the level of public expenditure on health per person in (a) England and (b) London in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [40406]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table shows calculations for cost of the national health service per person in England and London.

The calculations for England and London are on a different basis. England expenditure is total expenditure so includes both capital and centrally managed expenditure, whereas the London expenditure figures cover the NHS revenue expenditure of London primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

Several accounting changes make direct comparisons of expenditure across the time period problematic.

Full differences in currencies are explained in the detailed notes to the table.

## Expenditure per person in England and London

| Expenditure per person in England and London |                      |                                              |                                                                       |                                                                          |         |        |                     |        |  |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------------------|--------|--|
| Expenditure                                  |                      |                                              |                                                                       | Office for National Statistics (ONS)<br>Population (1,000,000) (Notes c) |         |        | Cost per person (£) |        |  |
| Year                                         |                      | Net NHS expenditure (£<br>billion) (Notes a) | Total net<br>operating<br>costs<br>London (£<br>billion)<br>(Notes b) | Year                                                                     | England | London | England             | London |  |
| Resource budgeting stage 1                   |                      |                                              |                                                                       |                                                                          |         |        |                     |        |  |
| 1999-2000                                    | Outturn              | 40.201                                       | —                                                                     | 1999                                                                     | 49.033  | 7.154  | 820                 | —      |  |
| 2000-01                                      | Outturn              | 43.932                                       | —                                                                     | 2000                                                                     | 49.233  | 7.237  | 892                 | —      |  |
| 2001-02                                      | Outturn              | 49.021                                       | —                                                                     | 2001                                                                     | 49.450  | 7.322  | 991                 | —      |  |
| 2002-03                                      | Outturn              | 54.042                                       | —                                                                     | 2002                                                                     | 49.649  | 7.369  | 1,088               | —      |  |
| Resource budgeting stage 2                   |                      |                                              |                                                                       |                                                                          |         |        |                     |        |  |
| 2003-04                                      | Outturn              | 64.173                                       | 9.5                                                                   | 2003                                                                     | 49.863  | 7.380  | 1,287               | 1,291  |  |
| 2004-05                                      | Outturn              | 69.049                                       | 10.7                                                                  | 2004                                                                     | 50.110  | 7.413  | 1,378               | 1,448  |  |
| 2005-06                                      | Outturn              | 75.822                                       | 11.5                                                                  | 2005                                                                     | 50.466  | 7.485  | 1,502               | 1,532  |  |
| 2006-07                                      | Outturn              | 80.561                                       | 11.6                                                                  | 2006                                                                     | 50.764  | 7.547  | 1,587               | 1,536  |  |
| 2007-08                                      | Outturn              | 89.401                                       | 13.0                                                                  | 2007                                                                     | 51.106  | 7.602  | 1,749               | 1,712  |  |
| 2008-09                                      | Outturn              | 94.017                                       | 13.8                                                                  | 2008                                                                     | 51.465  | 7.668  | 1,827               | 1,795  |  |
| 2009-10                                      | Outturn              | 101.884                                      | 15.9                                                                  | 2009                                                                     | 51.810  | 7.754  | 1,966               | 2,051  |  |
| Resource budgeting—aligned                   |                      |                                              |                                                                       |                                                                          |         |        |                     |        |  |
| 2009-10                                      | Outturn              | 99.450                                       | —                                                                     | —                                                                        | —       | —      | —                   | —      |  |
| 2010-11                                      | Estimated<br>outturn | 103.319                                      | —                                                                     | 2010                                                                     | 52.198  | 7.799  | 1,979               | —      |  |

## Notes (a):

1. Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.
2. Expenditure figures from 1999-00 to 2002-03 are on a Stage 1 resource budgeting basis.
3. Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2009-10 are on a Stage 2 resource budgeting basis.
4. Expenditure figures from 2009-10 to 2010-11 are on an aligned basis.
5. Expenditure figures are not consistent over the period (1990-91 to 2010-11) and this should be noted when making comparisons between years.
6. Figures from 2003-04 include a technical adjustment for trust depreciation.
7. Movement in NHS baseline in 2010-11 is due to reversal of capital other Government Department transfers by HM Treasury (£225 million), transfer of social care funding (£148 million capital and £68 million revenue) and reduction in non-trust depreciation (£18 million).
8. Expenditure excludes NHS annually managed expenditure.
9. Gross domestic product deflator 29 September 2010.
10. Total expenditure is calculated as the sum of revenue and capital expenditure net of non-trust depreciation and impairments. This is in line with HM Treasury Guidance.

## Notes (b):

11. The data are taken from the audited summarisation schedules, from which the NHS (England) Summarised Accounts are prepared.
12. In common with many other public and private sector organisations the Department of Health only holds accounting data at organisation level for seven years, and therefore we have provided data for 2003-04 to 2009-10.
13. In line with HM Treasury guidance, 2009-10 was the first year that data were compiled in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, whereas the earlier years' data were compiled under United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. This is a fundamental change to the basis on which the data are compiled, and means that a direct comparison should not be made between 2009-10 and the earlier years' data.

## Notes (c):

14. Source: ONS Population Estimates Analysis Tool final (mid-2009)
15. 2010 figures are ONS 2008-based Subnational Population Projections.

## NHS: Reorganisation

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the membership of the NHS Commissioning Board will include an ophthalmic services specialist. [39865]

**Mr Simon Burns:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 112W.

## NHS: Retirement

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff have retired from the NHS in each year from 2005. [39887]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is shown in the following table:

| Year ending 31 March | Number                  |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                      | Active members retiring | Total active membership |
| 2005                 | 23,451                  | 1,260,939               |
| 2006                 | 24,123                  | 1,263,349               |
| 2007                 | 32,991                  | 1,291,852               |
| 2008                 | 36,666                  | 1,336,576               |
| 2009                 | 37,324                  | 1,380,874               |
| 2010                 | 29,307                  | 1,368,215               |

Source: The NHS Pension Scheme and NHS Compensation for retirement Scheme Resource Accounts.

## Obesity: Children

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money his Department spent on measures to tackle childhood obesity in (a) 2009 and (b) 2010; and how that money was allocated in each such year. [40308]

**Anne Milton:** Information is provided in the following table on the amount spent under the Department's obesity programme budget.



## Obesity budget

|         | £ million |
|---------|-----------|
| 2008-09 | 9         |
| 2009-10 | 24.6      |
| 2010-11 | 136.8     |

<sup>1</sup> Latest projected spend.

Approximately £50 million was spent on the Change4Life campaign in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and £11.95 million was allocated in 2010-11.

Funding was allocated to a range of delivery partners including other Government Departments, local authorities, and national health service organisations.

In addition, during this period, the Department has supported a range of additional programmes such as the healthy schools initiative, various programmes to improve child health, and diet and nutrition. These programmes contribute to improving health and addressing childhood obesity.

## Ophthalmic Services

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the willing provider principle will apply to the provision of (a) ophthalmic care and (b) other specialist services. [39932]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There are no current plans for the any willing provider model to apply to specialist services commissioned by the National Health Service Commissioning Board (NHSCB), and it will be for the NHSCB to agree the appropriate procurement routes for these services.

## Out-of-area Treatment: Disputes

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many disputes under the cross-border commissioning protocol between local health boards and primary care trusts have reached (a) stage 2 and (b) stage 3 of the dispute resolution process since October 2009; and who the parties to the dispute were in each case. [39858]

**Anne Milton:** Stage 3 in the disputes resolution process involves escalation of disputes to a national level. No such applications have been received by the Department since October 2009.

Information on disputes at stage 2 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Dispute Resolution Process contained in the cross border commissioning protocol between the Department and the Welsh Assembly Government applies to all commissioners in Wales (local health boards) and all national health service providers and commissioners (primary care trusts) in England. Disputes can occur between commissioners as well as between a commissioner and provider. Every one of these organisations would therefore need to be contacted to provide this information.

## Psychiatry: Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of psychiatrists employed in the NHS specialising in the treatment of children in each of the next five years. [40159]

**Paul Burstow:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

No forecasts or plans are collected for the numbers of psychiatrists employed in the national health service specialising in the treatment of children.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for access to (a) children's services, (b) a child psychologist and (c) a child psychiatrist in each of the last five years. [40398]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department does not collect this information.

## Tobacco: Retail Trade

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the removal of tobacco point of sale displays on children and young people's perceptions of smoking as a normal activity; and if he will make a statement. [40865]

**Anne Milton:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr Offord) on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 473W.

## Walking

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average amount of time adults spent walking each day in the latest period for which figures are available. [40843]

**Anne Milton:** The Health Survey for England 2008 did not report on the average time spent walking per day but does so per week. It shows the average number of hours spent walking per week is 2.2 hours for men and 1.2 hours for women. For these purposes, the Health Survey for England defines walking as at a 'Fairly brisk' or 'Fast' pace.

A copy of the Health Survey for England has been placed in the Library.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

## Business: Advisory Services

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the procurement of his proposed business support service. [40739]

**Mr Prisk:** We are currently drafting specifications for the National Call Centre and Business Coaching for Growth elements of the Government's new business improvement delivery system and intend to carry out procurement exercises from March 2011.

## Citizens Advice Bureaux: Scotland

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of citizens advice bureaux likely to close in (a) Scotland, (b) Glasgow and (c) Glasgow North West constituency as a result of the comprehensive spending review. [40255]

**Mr Davey** [holding answer 11 February 2011]: The Government are not aware of any recent closures of Citizens Advice Bureaux in Scotland, Glasgow, or the hon. Member's constituency of Glasgow North West as a result of the comprehensive spending review.

The Government are aware that last year North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureaux announced the closure of bureaux offices in Largs and Arran as a result of a reduction in funding by the local authority and are providing an outreach service in its place.

#### Citizens Advice Scotland: Finance

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much central Government funding (a) was allocated to Citizens Advice Scotland in each of the last five years and (b) will be so allocated in each of the next three years. [41059]

**Mr Davey:** The following table shows funding from BIS to Citizens Advice Scotland over the past five years and the allocation for the forthcoming financial year 2011/12. In addition to the £2.9 million to be allocated next year, BIS has set aside an additional £1 million to help both Citizens Advice Scotland and Citizens Advice (the umbrella body for England and Wales) begin capacity building to take on those consumer functions currently carried out by Consumer Focus, OFT and Consumer Direct as proposed in the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills', the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), statement last October. Allocations for the remaining spending review period will be decided, once the detail of those functions and the necessary funds to go with them become clearer later in the year.

|         | Core grant in aid | CASTLE project | Additional hours/ credit crunch project | Total     |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2011/12 | 2,900,000         | —              | —                                       | 2,900,000 |
| 2010/11 | 2,760,000         | 168,000        | 590,000                                 | 3,518,000 |
| 2009/10 | 3,124,000         | 238,000        | —                                       | 3,362,000 |
| 2008/09 | 3,018,000         | 371,000        | —                                       | 3,389,000 |
| 2007/08 | 2,916,000         | 100,000        | —                                       | 3,016,000 |
| 2006/07 | 2,916,000         | —              | —                                       | 2,916,000 |

#### Consumer Direct

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 956W, on consumers: advisory services, what proportion of the approximately 1.7 million telephone calls and emails handled annually by Consumer Direct originated from residents of each (a) region, (b) local authority area and (c) constituency. [39915]

**Mr Davey:** In 2009-10, Consumer Direct handled approximately 1.7 million calls and e-mails. Of these, around 1.5 million related to general consumer issues. The remainder related to energy and post issues and were handled by the dedicated contact centre in Northampton. The breakdown of general consumer contacts by origin in the seven English regions, Wales and Scotland was:

| Region/nation        | Percentage |
|----------------------|------------|
| East of England      | 9.0        |
| East Midlands        | 7.0        |
| London               | 10.0       |
| North East           | 4.5        |
| North West           | 13.0       |
| Scotland             | 8.0        |
| South East           | 14.5       |
| South West           | 10.0       |
| Wales                | 6.0        |
| West Midlands        | 9.0        |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 9.0        |

We are unable to provide a breakdown by region of origin for energy and post related contacts handled by the centre in Northampton.

The vast majority of the telephone contacts come in via a direct dial national number. The telephony system does not enable us to identify the origin of these contacts by local authority or constituency.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided for the operation of Consumer Direct in each year since its establishment. [39916]

**Mr Davey:** The Office of Fair Trading took responsibility for funding and running Consumer Direct in April 2006. The cost of running the general advice service since 2006 has been:

|         | £ million |
|---------|-----------|
| 2006-07 | 18.8      |
| 2007-08 | 18.6      |
| 2008-09 | 13.2      |
| 2009-10 | 12.1      |
| 2010-11 | 10.6      |

<sup>1</sup> Forecast

Note:

These costs exclude those relating to the provision of advice on energy and post which are funded by industry.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps (a) his Department and (b) the Office of Fair Trading take to increase awareness of the services of Consumer Direct in areas with high levels of functional illiteracy. [39917]

**Mr Davey:** Consumer Direct (CD) does not specifically target areas with high levels of functional illiteracy. However, vulnerable consumers have been targeted by regional marketing activity to drive awareness of CD. Channels used previously included local radio advertisements and local events, any of which could have reached consumers with functional illiteracy.

The Office of Fair Trading's consumer education campaign Skilled To Go (STG) directs its audience to Consumer Direct as a good source of consumer advice, raising awareness of the service.

The target audience for STG are people in adult and further education learning on literacy, language and numeracy courses throughout the UK. This audience includes:

— Young people aged 16 to 25 on vocational learning courses IT, child care, catering etc.

Adults aged 16 to 80 on vocational courses, return-to-employment training or studying voluntarily to improve their literacy and numeracy skills

Adults for whom English is not their first language who are resident or working in the UK

### Credit

**Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what (a) meetings and (b) discussions he has had with representatives of (i) payday loan companies, (ii) home credit companies, (iii) hire purchase companies and (iv) any other bodies representing these industries as part of his Department's review of consumer credit. [40354]

**Mr Davey:** Following the announcement of the review of consumer credit and personal insolvency, on 28 July I met with representatives of Provident Financial, Wonga.com and Automoney. I also met with representatives of consumer organisations and mainstream lenders around the same time.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40291]

**Mr Davey:** In the last three financial years, the Department has made the following payments on carbon offsetting:

2007/08: £58,758

2008/09: £51,532

2009/10: £0<sup>1</sup>

The payments in 2007/08 and 2008/09 were made to the Department of Energy and Climate Change who administered the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (I).

<sup>1</sup> A payment of £90,063 covering the 2009/10 financial year emissions was made to EDF Trading Ltd under the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (II) programme in the 2010/11 financial year.

### Digital Economy

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department worked wholly on digital economy policy and implementation (a) on the most recent date for which figures are available and (b) on 1 January 2010. [38730]

**Mr Davey:** On 1 January 2010, 57.5 staff worked for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills wholly or mainly on digital economy policy.

On 21 December 2010, the Prime Minister decided that:

"...all responsibility for competition and policy issues relating to media, broadcasting, digital and telecoms sectors will be transferred immediately to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport."

As a result, and following the written ministerial statement issued on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, 49 staff working wholly or mainly

on digital economy policy transferred to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, along with their policy responsibilities.

In addition, 14 contractors and staff on loan from other organisations and who are not permanent employees of BIS, but are currently working for Broadband Delivery UK, also transferred.

### Departmental Offices

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the boundaries of the areas to be covered by each of his Department's proposed regional offices will be. [40718]

**Mr Prisk:** The regions covered by the Department's offices will be North West, West Midlands, East Midlands (including South East Midlands), North East, Yorkshire and Humber, London and the East (including Kent and East Sussex) and South Central and West (covering the South West and South East apart from Kent and East Sussex).

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff he plans to employ in each of his Department's proposed regional offices. [40719]

**Mr Prisk:** Each team will have approximately eight staff.

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on sharing the costs of his Department's new regional offices; [40720]

(2) what scope he has identified for sharing his Department's proposed regional offices with the Department for Communities and Local Government in order to deal with policy areas that involve co-ordination between the two departments. [40725]

**Mr Prisk:** My officials are continuing discussions with all relevant Departments about continuing functions in the regions.

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of establishing his Department's proposed regional offices. [40721]

**Mr Prisk:** A budget of £3.5 million per annum has been estimated. This includes salary and associated administrative costs.

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the principal administrative functions will be of his Department's proposed regional offices. [40724]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) teams will:

Promote BIS policy objectives for local economic growth.

Support BIS Ministerial business including briefing and visits

Lead BIS' relationships with Local Enterprise Partnerships and local government to help them understand BIS national policy priorities, assist in coordination of economic development delivery, and help partnerships build their capacity and capability.



Provide hard and soft intelligence and ensure effective co-ordination of Government responses to economic shocks, including major company failures.

Maintain strong links with selected large businesses, key sectors and local business bodies, to build local understanding and buy-in to BIS policies, and provide BIS with the local intelligence needed to understand the impact of policies and contribute to the development of new policies.

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the relationship will be between the regional offices proposed by his Department and local enterprise partnerships. [40726]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) teams will lead BIS' relationships with local enterprise partnerships, promoting BIS local economic growth priorities, assisting in coordination of economic development delivery, and helping to support partnerships' capacity and capability.

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to confirm the geographical location of each of his Department's proposed regional offices. [40870]

**Mr Prisk:** The exact locations for the teams are still being determined and some will have dual locations to provide wider geographic coverage. It is not currently possible to confirm when decisions on locations will be made.

#### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36177]

**Mr Davey:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

#### University Drop-out Rates

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average drop-out rate was from (a) Russell Group universities and (b) other universities in the latest period for which figures are available. [41124]

**Mr Willetts:** The non-completion rates for UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters at English higher education institutions are shown in the table by mission group, for the 2007/08 academic year. Non-completion is defined as the percentage of full-time first degree starters projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another higher education institution.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year should become available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from 31 March 2011. More information on non-completion in higher education is available from HESA at the following link:

<http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/>

*Non-completion rate<sup>1</sup> by mission group for UK-domiciled full-time first degree students starting a first degree in 2007/08 English higher education institutions*

| Mission group               | Non-completion rate (percentage) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Russell Group               | 5.6                              |
| 1994 Group                  | 7.3                              |
| Guild HE                    | 13.5                             |
| Million+ <sup>2</sup>       | 18.9                             |
| University Alliance         | 15.2                             |
| Non-affiliated institutions | 12.1                             |
| England                     | 12.7                             |

<sup>1</sup> Percentage of full-time first degree starters projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another higher education institution.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes Teesside university: Teesside university's 2007/08 entry cohort included students in further education colleges who were studying programmes through the Regional Lifelong Learning Network. From 2008/9 these students were countable by their originating institution, and hence treated as 'no longer in higher education', so their inclusion in specific figures results in an inaccurate Performance Indicator for the University.

Note:

Percentages are given to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency Performance Indicators in Higher Education

#### Loans

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 892W, on loans, if he will take steps to increase the size of sample surveyed for his Department's purposes in order to obtain further information on the incidence of use of payday loans below national level. [39914]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has recently re-commissioned the YouGov DebtTrack survey for another 12 months, with an agreed sample size. We will consider the potential for increasing the sample size for this particular survey when the contract comes up for renewal. In the meantime, this survey provides useful information about consumer indebtedness and borrowing behaviour among the general population, as it is based on a nationally representative sample.

More detailed survey data on household borrowing (including the use of payday lending) is also available from the Wealth and Assets Survey, an ONS survey that is partially funded by BIS, along with other Government Departments. This covers roughly 32,000 households (approximately 50,000 individuals). However, detailed analysis of the incidence of payday lending at a sub-national level has not been conducted on this dataset.

#### Office for Fair Access

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the Office for Fair Access in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of its budget in each of the next five years. [41149]

**Mr Willetts:** The budget allocated to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) in 2010-11 is £464,000. Allocations for subsequent years have not yet been set. We are working with the Director of Fair Access to determine what level of resource will be required in the future given the additional responsibilities set out in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's letter of 10 February 2011.

### Post Office: Bank Services

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on proposals for the development of (a) a Post Office current account and (b) a Post Office business account contained in the Government's response to the Post Office Banking consultation published on 29 March 2010. [41109]

**Mr Davey:** The Post Office Banking Consultation was conducted by the previous Government between 2 December 2009 and 24 February 2010. We set out our policy on the future of the Post Office network in our policy statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", published on 9 November 2010. In this statement we set out that we will support the Post Office as it expands further into financial services through the provision of new products and by increasing access to UK current accounts through the Post Office network.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on proposals to make Community Development Finance Institution loans available through the Post Office contained in the Government response to the Post Office Banking consultation published on 29 March 2010. [41110]

**Mr Davey:** The Post Office Banking Consultation was conducted by the previous Government between 2 December 2009 and 24 February 2010. We set out our policy on the future of the Post Office network in the policy statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", published on 9 November 2010. In this statement we were clear that we will support the Post Office as it expands further into financial services through the provision of new products. Post Office Ltd. will make commercial judgments on which products and services to deliver through the Post Office network, including on proposals relating to Community Development Finance Institution loans.

### Post Office: Finance

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he has set for the allocation of monies from the 2011-15 funding package for the Post Office. [41177]

**Mr Davey:** As stated in the policy statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", published on 9 November 2010, the Post Office will receive the following funding by year:

| Financial year | £ million |
|----------------|-----------|
| 2011-12        | 180       |
| 2012-13        | 410       |
| 2013-14        | 415       |
| 2014-15        | 330       |

By convention government funding is made at the start of the financial year. All payments are subject to state aid approval from the European Commission.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of Post Office funding that will be used for the Crown network between 2011 and 2015. [41178]

**Mr Davey:** A financially viable and sustainable Crown network will be a key component of the Post Office network in the future. The Post Office Ltd has committed to eradicate the losses currently made by the Crown network. 37% of the £1.34 billion of Government funding for the Post Office is allocated to be spent on modernisation of the network, a proportion of which will be spent on the Crown network. The Post Office Ltd is currently developing detailed implementation plans for modernisation of the network and the level of funding for the Crown network is unclear at this stage.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what key performance indicators have been agreed with Post Office Ltd. in respect of the size of the Crown post office network under its funding package for 2011-15. [41183]

**Mr Davey:** A financially viable and sustainable Crown network will be a key part of the overall Post Office network in the future. Post Office Ltd. is committed to eradicating the losses made by the Crown network, and is currently developing plans to achieve this objective. No key performance indicators have been agreed.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the network subsidy which will be required to support the Post Office from 2015. [41186]

**Mr Davey:** The Government believe that by 2014/15 the Post Office network will be on a much more sustainable financial footing. However, we anticipate that as a result of the measures to address the fundamental economics of the network that we are taking now, Government funding will reduce substantially over time. There will almost certainly remain a need for a residual level of subsidy in the future to maintain those branches which could never be profitable, such as those in remote rural areas which provide a valuable social purpose. We are not able to provide an exact estimate for the subsidy post 2014/15 but anticipate it being considerably lower than the current subsidy level.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of profit Post Office Ltd would need to be making for mutualisation to be financially viable. [41187]

**Mr Davey:** The Government were clear in the policy statement "Securing the Post Office network in the Digital Age", published in November 2010, that mutualisation of Post Office Ltd will only be work if the network is financially viable. We anticipate that the Government's funding of £1.34 billion for the post office network over the spending review period, the modernisation of the network and the policies set out in the policy statement will move the network on to a sustainable financial footing. However there will almost certainly remain a need for residual level of Government

subsidy in the future, to maintain those branches that could never be profitable, such as those in remote rural areas. We do not anticipate setting a specific level of profit that the Post Office Ltd would need to be making before moving to a mutual.

Co-operatives UK will be reporting back to Ministers in the spring with an outline of options for a mutual Post Office and before making any final decision on a move to a mutual structure the Government will conduct a full public consultation.

### Post Office: Modernisation

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for modernisation of the post office network between 2011 and 2015. [41179]

**Mr Davey:** The Government funding of £1.34 billion to the Post Office over the spending review period will support Post Office Ltd's modernisation of the network, the key features of which are:

To have about 4,000 main post offices in town and city centres across the country

Conversion of about 2,000 sub post offices to the new 'Post Office Local' model, ensuring the longer opening hours demanded by mail and bill payment customers

Expansion of online and introduced a range of IT improvements to make transactions quicker and simpler

Eradication of the losses made by its directly managed Crown post office network.

The Government will also be looking at options for mutualisation of Post Office Ltd to align the interests of stakeholders in the network better.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what agreements his Department has reached with Post Office Ltd on the allocation of funding for modernisation of the post office network between 2011 and 2015. [41180]

**Mr Davey:** As stated in the policy statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", the Post Office will receive the following funding by year:

£180 million in the financial year 2011-12

£410 million in the financial year 2012-13

£415 million in the financial year 2013-14

£330 million in the financial year 2014-15

Of the funding 48% will be network subsidy supporting uneconomic branches. Much of the rest of the funding will assist in enabling Post Office Ltd to modernise the network, and improving its infrastructure.

As we noted in our policy statement, all payments are subject to receiving state aid approval from the European Commission.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what key performance indicators have been agreed with Post Office Ltd in respect of (a) the network subsidy, (b) network modernisation, (c) technology and (d) project costs for its funding package between 2011 and 2015. [41181]

**Mr Davey:** The Post Office Ltd is currently developing detailed implementation plans for the modernisation of the post office network. By the end of this Parliament, Post Office Ltd have committed to:

Have about 4,000 main post offices in town and city centres across the country

Converted about 2,000 sub post offices to the new 'Post Office Local' model, ensuring the longer opening hours demanded by mail and bill payment customers

Expanded online and introduced a range of IT improvements to make transactions quicker and simpler

Eradicated the losses made by its directly managed Crown post office network.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of proposals to convert around 2,000 sub-post offices to the Post Office local model by 2015; and what proportion of these costs would be spent on redundancy or compensation payments to sub-postmasters. [41182]

**Mr Davey:** Over the next four years, around 2,000 small sub-post offices will transfer to the local model either onsite or at neighbouring premises, with the major roll out starting in 2014, following further piloting. We believe the local model will play a critical role in securing the long-term future of the network.

The set up costs of the local model will be relatively low in comparison to a traditional sub post office with its dedicated 'fortress' counter. The Post Office Ltd is currently developing detailed implementation plans for the modernisation of the network. The total costs of the conversion programme, or the level of any compensation payments made to sub-postmasters, are not clear at this stage.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's document, "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", November 2010, what steps he has taken to implement proposals for the Post Office to provide services in relation to (a) identity verification, (b) processing applications and (c) processing payments. [41185]

**Mr Davey:** The Government's ambition is for post offices to become a 'front office' for the delivery of both local and national Government services. Since the publication of the policy statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", published on 9 November 2010, Post Office Ltd has been developing its services and products for Government Departments and local authorities. Ministers have been strongly supportive of Post Office Ltd's efforts to build on its existing strengths in these areas.

### Postal Services

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on increasing services provided through the Post Office. [41184]

**Mr Davey:** The Government are committed to a sustainable future for the post office network. Expanding the range of services—including Government services—that the Post Office provides will be an important contribution towards the network's future and Ministers from the



Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have held regular meetings with ministerial colleagues to discuss this issue.

#### Regional Growth Fund

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role his Department's proposed regional offices will have in the approval of bids for the Regional Growth Fund. [40723]

**Mr Prisk:** As part of their remit, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) teams will maintain strong links with selected large businesses, key sectors and local business bodies, providing this Department with local intelligence supporting the development and delivery of BIS policies.

Although these teams will have no formal role in the approval of bids for the Regional Growth Fund, the independent Advisory Panel making recommendations to Ministers may on occasion call on these teams for a regional or local economic perspective where this might help in their decision-making on particular bids.

#### Students: Fees and Charges

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what research he has undertaken on the effects of increases in tuition fees on applications to university from potential students who would not be eligible for the National Scholarship Programme, university bursaries or other financial assistance related to family means; [41150]

(2) whether he has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated research on the effect of tuition fee increases on university applications from students from middle income families. [40968]

**Mr Willetts:** The Department has commissioned a number of projects which have examined the impact of tuition fees on different groups of students. Reports are available at:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/research>

University tuition fees are estimated to have had a negative impact on participation, and enrolment tends to be lower in the presence of tuition fees. An increase in tuition fees tends to cause a decline in participation, particularly among students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, unless accompanied by an equivalent increase in student support.

Recent evidence relating to reforms of tuition fees and student support in the UK found that an increase in tuition fees by £1,000 per annum—holding all other factors constant—would be expected to lead to a 4.4 percentage point decline in participation. In addition, it was found that a £1,000 per annum increase in grants increases participation by 2.1 percentage points while a £1,000 per annum increase in loans is associated with a 3.2 percentage point increase in participation.

In relation to the 2006 reforms, some individuals appear to have started university a year earlier than they might otherwise have done so (i.e. in 2005-06 rather than 2006-07) to avoid having to pay the new fees. This pattern of shifting participation was most clearly evident for individuals from higher socio-economic backgrounds, and for those with the highest key stage 5

results. However, there was no evidence that the reforms lead to a sustained fall in HE participation, because tuition fees were accompanied by large increases in loans and grants.

The introduction of upfront tuition fees in 1998 had a small negative impact on participation of high income groups.

Tuition fees and other education related costs also influence the selection of higher education institutions, behaviour while at university and reduce the probability of completion, especially for students from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Studies around attitudes to debt have tended to find that people from lower income groups tend to be more debt averse than those from higher income groups and that debt aversion can influence decisions around HE for lower income groups, though this was mainly about where to study rather than whether to study. The same effect was not found for those from higher income groups.

Studies from the US tend to find that the impact of tuition fees is greatest on those from low income groups. Studies from Australia do not find any relationships between debt aversion, socio-economic group and HE participation.

#### Trade Promotion: Philippines

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department takes to promote the interests of UK businesses in the Philippines. [40685]

**Mr Prisk:** The Philippines is an emerging economy and one of the largest markets in South East Asia. There is a dedicated UK Trade & investment (UKTI) resource in-country to sell the UK's expertise, secure commercial opportunities and improve market access for British business. The Philippines is also a key component of the outreach programme delivered by UKTI, on behalf of the Asia Task Force; to alert UK business to the potential of Asian markets. Since May 2010, when the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), took over co-chairmanship, seven ATF events have been held around the UK, attracting around 1,000 companies to participate. This outreach to business will continue throughout 2011.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), visited Manila in July 2010 following the inauguration of the new Philippines President, and the permanent under-secretary of state at the FCO visited in January this year. Both visits were used to lobby on specific commercial interests, to promote the UK's expertise and to push for progress on market access issues, which will help open the doors for British business. UKTI will continue to work closely with the Government of the Philippines on public-private partnership initiatives to identify commercial opportunities, sell the UK's capabilities and ensure UK business maximise their interests in the Philippines.

Looking ahead, UKTI has identified a number of high value opportunities in the Philippines in the development of infrastructure projects including railways,

power, water and environmental technologies. UKTI is also working closely with stakeholders to develop strategies to help British business access these opportunities. UKTI will shortly publish a guide to doing business with the Philippines which will assist UK companies to understand and navigate the business environment better.

#### UK Research Councils: Finance

**George Freeman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the UK Research Councils spent in (a) Scotland, (b) Wales, (c) England and (d) Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [39690]

**Mr Willetts:** Data from the Research Councils setting out their spend over the past five years in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are set out in the following table:

|                  | Summary |         |         |         |         | £ million |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
|                  | 2005-6  | 2006-7  | 2007-8  | 2008-9  | 2009-10 | Total     |
| England          | 1,648.5 | 1,798.5 | 2,108.8 | 2,286.0 | 2,489.9 | 10,331.7  |
| Northern Ireland | 11.6    | 14.8    | 16.3    | 20.0    | 24.0    | 86.7      |
| Scotland         | 222.3   | 230.7   | 273.8   | 311.0   | 347.5   | 1,385.4   |
| Wales            | 51.3    | 56.0    | 64.5    | 67.3    | 78.1    | 317.2     |
| UK               | 1,933.7 | 2,100.1 | 2,463.4 | 2,684.4 | 2,939.6 | 12,121.1  |

Note:

These figures do not include Research Council admin expenditure.

**George Freeman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on research institutes in (a) Scotland, (b) Wales, (c) England and (d) Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [39691]

**Mr Willetts:** Research Council expenditure in their research institutes over the past five years in Scotland, Wales, England and Northern Ireland are set out in the following table. Also included is the support that the Department provides to research establishments in the public sector through the Public Sector Research Exploitation programme (PSRE).

|            | Summary (£ million) |        |        |        |         | Total   |
|------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
|            | 2005-6              | 2006-7 | 2007-8 | 2008-9 | 2009-10 |         |
| Scotland   | 49.7                | 53.4   | 59.0   | 68.5   | 90.8    | 321.4   |
| Wales      | 9.7                 | 10.8   | 13.2   | 12.3   | 8.9     | 54.9    |
| England    | 552.6               | 566.0  | 581.7  | 625.3  | 696.3   | 3,022.0 |
| N. Ireland | 0.8                 | 0.2    | 0.2    | 0.5    | 0.8     | 2.3     |
| Total      | 612.8               | 630.5  | 654.1  | 706.5  | 796.7   | 3,400.6 |

#### Yorkshire Forward

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assets of Yorkshire Forward are to remain in Yorkshire and the Humber; [40735]

(2) what timetable he has set for decisions on the future of Yorkshire Forward assets; [40736]

(3) whether he plans to ensure that all areas covered by Yorkshire Forward will benefit from the disposal of its assets. [40737]

**Mr Prisk:** Yorkshire Forward, along with all other RDAs, submitted a detailed assets and liabilities plan to BIS on 31 January 2011. Their plan is currently being scrutinised by Government before being given final sign off by the Yorkshire Forward Board. We anticipate that the systematic disposal of assets and liabilities will begin in April 2011.

As such, no final decisions have yet been made on the destination of particular assets.

Each disposal will be considered on a case by case basis. At present, any disposal of regional development agency assets and liabilities will take place within the existing legislative framework (the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998). Decisions will be made with a view to obtaining the best outcome for the local area consistent with achieving value for the public purse.

For more details on this process I refer my hon. Friend to the statement on RDA Assets and Liabilities that I issued on 10 February 2011:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/englands-regional-development-agencies/assets>

Copies of this statement have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

#### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

##### BP: Health and Safety

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of recent correspondence between his Department and BP on health and safety; [39587]

(2) what recent representations he has received on BP and health and safety; [39588]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of BP on health and safety policy. [39589]

**Charles Hendry:** I have had no discussions with representatives of BP on health and safety policy. There is no recent correspondence between the Department and BP on health and safety, and I have received no recent representations on BP and health and safety.

##### BP: South Kara Sea

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information he has received from BP on the environmental protection measures proposed in respect of BP's prospective joint exploration with Rosneft for oil reserves in the South Kara Sea. [40669]

**Charles Hendry:** We have not received specific information on the environmental protection measures proposed, but BP has made clear that the safety, environmental and operational risk management aspects of its activities will remain paramount.

##### Carbon Storage

**Mr Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the merits of funding three further commercial-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. [39309]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government are committed to continuing public sector investment in carbon capture and storage technology for four power stations.

DECC is already in the process of selecting the first of these demonstration projects which is for post combustion capture technology on a coal fired power plant with offshore storage in a disused gas field.

#### Environment Protection

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to increase the (a) production and (b) distribution of environmental products.

[39091]

**Mr Paice:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government have taken a number of different steps to increase the production and distribution of more sustainable products, from voluntary agreements with manufacturers and retailers, to promoting innovation and enforcing regulation, and by promoting an increased market for sustainable products through Government buying standards.

#### Fuel Oil: Unfair Practices

**Sarah Newton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of using HM Revenue and Customs' Registered Dealers in Controlled Oils database to assist the Office of Fair Trade in investigating allegations of anti-competitive practices in the domestic heating oil market.

[41138]

**Charles Hendry:** The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is an independent competition authority with powers to investigate allegations of anti-competitive practices.

My officials have confirmed that the OFT is aware of the Registered Dealers in Controlled Oils database and will consider whether it could be helpful in its work.

#### Members: Correspondence

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sleaford and North Hykeham of 8 December 2010 on heating oil prices.

[40690]

**Charles Hendry:** The response to this letter (the hon. and learned Member's ref: 2930) was sent on 14 February 2011. I apologise for the delay in responding.

#### Natural Gas: Storage

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made an assessment of the optimum level of gas

storage capacity required to ensure security of supply. [39775]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC does not make assessments of the optimum level of gas storage capacity. However, Government have outlined the need for additional gas infrastructure, including gas storage facilities, in the revised National Policy Statements. These will be further revised to take account of responses received during the 12-week consultation which closed on 24 January 2011.

Government have also proposed measures in the current Energy Bill to give Ofgem powers to sharpen commercial incentives on gas market participants to avoid a gas supply emergency. This should help underpin commercial demand for additional supply infrastructure, including gas storage facilities.

#### Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Expenditure

**Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much and what proportion of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's budget has been spent on socio-economic projects in each of the last three years.

[40679]

**Charles Hendry:** The NDA has spent the following:

|         | £ million            |              |                                        | Percentage                                                           |                                                                              |
|---------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         | Socio-economic spend | Skills spend | Socio-economic spend plus skills spend | Socio-economic spend plus skills spend as proportion of NDA's budget | Percentage of overall expenditure when the £4 million annual SLC is included |
| 2007-08 | 12.5                 | 3.2          | 15.7                                   | 0.6                                                                  | 0.7                                                                          |
| 2008-09 | 10.2                 | 15.6         | 25.8                                   | 0.9                                                                  | 1.1                                                                          |
| 2009-10 | 6.9                  | 2.1          | 9                                      | 0.3                                                                  | 0.4                                                                          |

Much of the NDA's investment in skills has a strong socio-economic focus.

The NDA's site licence companies spend approximately £4 million a year through the annual site funding allowance.

#### Sellafield

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what quantity of (a) tritium, (b) carbon 14, (c) zinc-65, (d) strontium 89, (e) strontium 90, (f) technetium 99, (g) iodine 129, (h) europium 152, (i) europium 154, (j) total Beta and (k) uranium was discharged in liquid emissions from Sellafield in each of the last 20 years.

[41044]

**Charles Hendry:** The data requested for the period between 1990 and 2009 are provided in the following annex. Data for 2010 are yet to be verified and therefore have not been included in this response.

#### Annex

Sellafield liquid radioactive discharges 1990-2009

| Month | Tritium (GBq) | Carbon-14 (GBq) | Zinc-65 (GBq) | Strontium-89 (GBq) | Strontium-90 (GBq) | Technetium-99 (GBq) | Iodine-129 (GBq) | Europium-152 (GBq) | Europium-154 (GBq) | Beta (GBq) | Uranium (kg) |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1990  | 1.7E+06       | 2.0E+03         | 1.2E+02       | 3.0E+02            | 4.2E+03            | 3.8E+03             | 1.1E+02          | 7.9E+01            | 5.3E+01            | 7.1E+04    | 6.9E+03      |
| 1991  | 1.8E+06       | 2.4E+03         | 1.2E+02       | 1.8E+02            | 4.1E+03            | 3.9E+03             | 1.6E+02          | 7.4E+01            | 4.5E+01            | 6.2E+04    | 3.6E+03      |



Sellafield liquid radioactive discharges 1990-2009

| Month | Tritium<br>(GBq) | Carbon-14<br>(GBq) | Zinc-65<br>(GBq) | Strontium-89<br>(GBq) | Strontium-90<br>(GBq) | Technetium-99<br>(GBq) | Iodine-129<br>(GBq) | Europium-152<br>(GBq) | Europium-154<br>(GBq) | Beta<br>(GBq) | Uranium<br>(kg) |
|-------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1992  | 1.2E+06          | 8.0E+02            | 7.7E+01          | 1.4E+02               | 4.1E+03               | 3.2E+03                | 7.0E+01             | 4.3E+01               | 3.9E+01               | 5.7E+04       | 8.4E+03         |
| 1993  | 2.3E+06          | 2.0E+03            | 9.7E+01          | 2.2E+02               | 1.7E+04               | 6.1E+03                | 1.6E+02             | 4.5E+01               | 4.2E+01               | 9.7E+04       | 1.6E+04         |
| 1994  | 1.7E+06          | 8.2E+03            | 1.1E+02          | 3.3E+02               | 2.9E+04               | 7.2E+04                | 1.6E+02             | 2.2E+02               | 1.1E+02               | 1.3E+05       | 1.4E+03         |
| 1995  | 2.7E+06          | 1.2E+04            | 1.7E+02          | 3.8E+02               | 2.8E+04               | 1.9E+05                | 2.5E+02             | 1.8E+02               | 1.4E+02               | 1.9E+05       | 1.3E+03         |
| 1996  | 3.0E+06          | 1.1E+04            | 1.2E+02          | 3.0E+02               | 1.6E+04               | 1.5E+05                | 4.1E+02             | 1.4E+02               | 7.5E+01               | 1.4E+05       | 1.2E+03         |
| 1997  | 2.6E+06          | 4.4E+03            | 1.3E+02          | 3.3E+02               | 3.7E+04               | 8.4E+04                | 5.2E+02             | 1.2E+02               | 1.6E+02               | 1.4E+05       | 7.6E+02         |
| 1998  | 2.3E+06          | 3.7E+03            | 1.4E+02          | 8.8E+02               | 1.8E+04               | 5.3E+04                | 5.5E+02             | 1.6E+02               | 9.8E+01               | 8.6E+04       | 5.3E+02         |
| 1999  | 2.5E+06          | 5.8E+03            | 7.1E+01          | 6.0E+02               | 3.1E+04               | 6.9E+04                | 4.8E+02             | 1.1E+02               | 5.2E+01               | 1.1E+05       | 5.4E+02         |
| 2000  | 2.3E+06          | 4.6E+03            | 2.9E+01          | 6.4E+02               | 2.0E+04               | 4.4E+04                | 4.7E+02             | 7.5E+01               | 5.7E+01               | 7.7E+04       | 6.1E+02         |
| 2001  | 2.6E+06          | 9.5E+03            | 4.5E+01          | 7.6E+02               | 2.6E+04               | 7.9E+04                | 6.3E+02             | 1.1E+02               | 8.5E+01               | 1.2E+05       | 3.9E+02         |
| 2002  | 3.3E+06          | 1.3E+04            | 3.1E+01          | 5.2E+02               | 2.1E+04               | 8.6E+04                | 7.3E+02             | 1.3E+02               | 7.3E+02               | 1.2E+05       | 4.4E+02         |
| 2003  | 3.9E+06          | 1.7E+04            | 2.9E+01          | 5.6E+02               | 1.4E+04               | 3.7E+04                | 5.5E+02             | 2.3E+02               | 2.2E+02               | 8.3E+04       | 4.8E+02         |
| 2004  | 3.2E+06          | 1.6E+04            | 2.9E+01          | 1.8E+02               | 1.8E+04               | 1.4E+04                | 6.5E+02             | 2.2E+02               | 1.7E+02               | 7.3E+04       | 4.4E+02         |
| 2005  | 1.6E+06          | 5.3E+03            | 3.6E+01          | 1.1E+03               | 1.3E+04               | 6.7E+03                | 3.0E+02             | 1.7E+02               | 1.1E+02               | 4.3E+04       | 3.7E+02         |
| 2006  | 1.1E+06          | 1.1E+04            | 1.9E+01          | 5.5E+02               | 5.0E+03               | 5.6E+03                | 2.0E+02             | 1.1E+02               | 7.5E+01               | 2.9E+04       | 4.4E+02         |
| 2007  | 6.3E+05          | 4.7E+03            | 1.7E+01          | 4.5E+02               | 5.0E+03               | 4.9E+03                | 1.0E+02             | 1.3E+02               | 8.5E+01               | 2.5E+04       | 3.0E+02         |
| 2008  | 7.8E+05          | 7.2E+03            | 2.2E+01          | 2.3E+02               | 1.7E+03               | 2.4E+03                | 2.0E+02             | 1.1E+02               | 9.7E+01               | 1.4E+04       | 2.8E+02         |
| 2009  | 1.5E+06          | 8.2E+03            | 2.0E+01          | 1.5E+02               | 2.9E+03               | 3.1E+03                | 2.5E+02             | 5.2E+01               | 4.8E+01               | 1.8E+04       | 4.1E+02         |

## JUSTICE

## Legal Aid

**18 Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on his proposals for the legal aid budget; and if he will make a statement. [40470]

**Mr Djanogly:** The consultation for the reform of legal aid closed yesterday and we have received over 1,200 responses from members of the public, lawyers, advice providers, and many others.

I have also received many representations over recent weeks from Members of this House and others who are interested in the future of legal aid.

We are now considering all representations received, and hope to publish our finalised proposals in the spring.

## Appeals: Social Security Benefits

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 804W, on appeals: social security benefits, (1) what measures have been put in place at (a) the Cardiff Tribunals Service Centre and (b) the Haverfordwest Hearing Venue to increase capacity in order to deal with the increased numbers of social security appeals; [39901]

(2) whether further staff have been taken on at (a) the Cardiff Tribunals Service Centre and (b) the Haverfordwest Hearing Venue in order to manage the increased number of social security appeals. [39902]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service does not have an administrative office in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire. Appeals submitted within the hon. Member's constituency are heard at the Haverfordwest hearing venue, and processed at the Cardiff Tribunals Service Centre.

Cardiff Tribunals Service have been dealing with an unprecedented and unforecast increase in the levels of

appeals, receiving 73.2% more appeals from 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010 than during the same period two years ago.

In response, there has been a significant increase in staffing levels at our Cardiff processing centre, together with a number of initiatives to improve capacity and throughput. The result has been that, between 1 April 2010 and 30 September 2010, the Cardiff Tribunals Service Centre ran over 75% more hearing sessions in the hearing venues it supports than during the same period two years ago.

This is also reflected at the Haverfordwest hearing venue where, between 1 April 2010 and 30 September 2010, the number of appeals submitted to the Tribunals Service from that area increased by almost 130% compared with the same period two years ago. In response the number of hearing sessions have been increased by over 162%. Haverfordwest is a hearing venue and no processing staff are permanently based there. There has, however, been a suitable increase in the numbers of staff who are available to clerk hearings at Haverfordwest in order to support this increase in hearing sessions.

In order to continue to increase hearing capacity in Cardiff, and Haverfordwest in particular, new medically qualified panel members have been recruited in that area and new legal members are currently being recruited. Combined with the additional processing capacity at Cardiff Tribunals Service, these measures are designed to ensure that the waiting times in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire will begin to reduce in the coming year.

## Bribery

**Joseph Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress he has made on the provision of guidance on implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. [40924]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I am working on the guidance to commercial organisations to make it practical and useful for legitimate business and trade. It will be published once I am confident that it addresses the legitimate

concerns of all those who took part in the consultation process. The publication will be followed by a three-month notice period before full implementation of the Act.

#### Compensation: Discrimination

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the mean compensation award was for (a) unfair dismissal, (b) race discrimination, (c) sex discrimination, (d) disability discrimination, (e) religious discrimination, (f) sexual orientation discrimination and (g) age discrimination at employment tribunals in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [40417]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service publishes statistics annually and quarterly. The following table, which is drawn from published material, shows the average (mean) compensation awards in 2009-10 for each jurisdiction cited.

*Average (mean) compensation awards in 2009-10 for (a) unfair dismissal; (b) race discrimination; (c) sex discrimination; (d) disability discrimination; (e) religious discrimination; (f) sexual orientation discrimination and (g) age discrimination*

| Jurisdiction                      | Mean compensation awarded (£) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Unfair dismissal                  | 9,120                         |
| Race discrimination               | 18,584                        |
| Sex discrimination                | 19,499                        |
| Disability discrimination         | 52,087                        |
| Religious discrimination          | 4,886                         |
| Sexual orientation discrimination | 20,384                        |
| Age discrimination                | 10,931                        |

#### Departmental Energy

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department plans to take to reduce its energy costs. [39652]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice is reducing its energy cost (defined as pence per kWh) by migrating those energy contracts onto the Buying Solutions Frameworks in the instances where they are not already on the Buying Solutions Frameworks for the provision of mains electricity, gas, liquid fuels and coal.

We are looking at a range of initiatives for alternative forms of energy supply at potentially lower cost solutions, both on a pence per kWh basis and for its impact on the carbon footprint. Examples of alternate fuel types are bio diesel and bio mass. Examples of alternative sources of power, which we are investigating the cost and carbon advantages of, are solar and wind.

#### Employment Tribunals

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of employment tribunal (a) applicants and (b) respondents had been involved in employment tribunal proceedings within the previous 24 months of their appearance in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [40409]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service does not hold this information, as it is not required to be given on the tribunal forms.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ET1 employment tribunal applications were struck out or dismissed due to having been inadequately completed by applicants in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [40411]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service publishes statistics annually and quarterly. Table 2 of the publication, "Employment Tribunal and EAT Statistics 2009-10", provides details of the employment tribunal cases struck out and dismissed in 2009-10 and is available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/employment-eat-annual-stats.htm>

In the financial year 2009-10, a total of 20,100 cases were struck out not at a hearing; and another 4,600 were dismissed at a preliminary hearing.

Some ET1 claim forms are also 'rejected' during the pre-acceptance procedure. Here, a decision is made not to accept the claim under certain specific provisions in the tribunal's rules, for example, where it is clear that the claim form does not include all the relevant required information.

In the financial year 2009-10, a total of 4,100 claims were initially rejected, of which a total of 2,800 were either never resubmitted or resubmitted but then not accepted.

Information on the reasons for any strike out or dismissal (or for any decision to reject a claim) are not collated centrally. This information could only be provided at a disproportionate cost by manually checking individual case files and records.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of employment tribunal claims were (a) struck out and (b) dismissed at a preliminary hearing in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [40413]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Tribunals Service publishes statistics annually and quarterly. Table 2 of the publication, "Employment Tribunal and EAT Statistics 2009-10", details the information on the employment tribunal cases disposed and outcomes of jurisdictions in 2009-10 and is available at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/employment-eat-annual-stats.htm>

In 2009-10, (a) 9% of jurisdictional claims that were disposed of were struck out and (b) 2% of jurisdictional claims that were disposed of were dismissed at preliminary hearing.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of employment tribunal applicants whose cases were struck out, dismissed or unsuccessful were (a) represented and (b) unrepresented in the latest 12 months for which figures are available; [40414]

(2) what proportion of employment tribunal applicants whose cases were struck out, dismissed or unsuccessful were (a) represented and (b) unrepresented in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [40418]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following table lists the numbers of cases, by outcome, where claimants were represented and unrepresented. The data cover the 12-month period of the 2009-10 financial year.

[illegible]



*Number of persons found guilty at all courts and at the Crown court under section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997<sup>1</sup> and sentence breakdown at crown courts in England and Wales, 1998 to 2009*

| Outcome                      | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 <sup>4</sup> | 2009 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| Other sentences <sup>2</sup> | 1    | 2    | 2    | 4    | 5    | 2    | 4    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 5                 | 7    |

<sup>1</sup> The following statutes were used for the corresponding offence:

Breach of the conditions of an injunction against harassment

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s.3

<sup>2</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>3</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

<sup>5</sup> The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

<sup>6</sup> Where Immediate custody was the principal disposal and the fine was a secondary disposal.

<sup>7</sup> Includes: absolute/conditional discharge, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

**Gavin Shaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons have made a claim in civil proceedings in England and Wales under section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 following an alleged breach of section 1 of the Act. [41073]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally on the number of persons that have made a claim in civil proceedings in England and Wales under section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 following an alleged breach of section 1 of the Act.

While the main administrative computer system used in the county courts contains the incidence of claims issued, those specifically relating to section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 cannot be distinguished from other types of claims issued. This information could be obtained only through the examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

### Homicide

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences of corporate manslaughter there have been since the entry into force of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007. [40222]

**Mr Blunt:** The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force on 6 April 2008 and applies to offences committed after that date. From commencement to 31 December 2009 (latest available) the Ministry of Justice have received no notifications of a conviction made under this Act.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

### Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W, on human trafficking: prosecutions, how many people have (a) been charged with human trafficking offences and (b) subsequently been prosecuted in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [40402]

**Mr Blunt:** A total of 47 persons were proceeded against at all courts in 2009 (latest 12 months available) for human trafficking offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

Charging data are not collected.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

### Judicial Pension Scheme

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assumptions he has made in respect of the dropout rate from the Judicial Pension Scheme attributable to (a) potential increases in contributions and (b) its indexation against the consumer prices index; what assessment he has made of the effects of the dropout rate on the future viability of this fund; and if he will make a statement. [40361]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** At the spending review the Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that some additional members, amounting to 1% of the value of the paybill, would opt-out of all the public service schemes as a result of the proposed increase in pension contributions.

Further consideration of the effects of this policy on the opt-out rate will be made as part of the process of determining the increase in contributions across members of the Judicial Pension Scheme.

No assessment has been made of the number of additional members that might opt-out as a result of the change in indexation.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the pension entitlement will be of a member of the Judicial Pension Scheme who retires after 30 years' full-time service on a salary of (a) £10,000, (b) £15,000, (c) £20,000, (d) £25,000, (e) £30,000, (f) £40,000 and (g) £50,000 if the pension is uprated in line with (i) the retail prices index and (ii) the consumer prices index. [40373]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I am unable to provide the figures requested as there are no members of the Judicial Pension Scheme who receive a full-time annual salary of £50,000 or less.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of active members of the Judicial Pension Scheme earn (a) between £10,000 and £15,000, (b) between £15,000 and £20,000, (c) between £20,000 and £25,000, (d) between £25,000 and £30,000 and (e) £30,000 and more. [40377]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** All the active members of the Judicial Pension Scheme earn £30,000 or more.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the Judicial Pension Scheme of the proposed indexation according to the consumer prices index (a) in 2010-11 and (b) in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years. [40384]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Government have not made any separate estimate of the change in central Government expenditure for the Judicial Pension Scheme as a result of the change to indexation of public service pensions and benefits in line with the consumer prices index.

However, the overall estimated savings in annually managed expenditure over the forecast period for public service pension expenditure were made available in answers to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire), on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1193-94W.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the administration costs of the Judicial Pension Scheme are for 2010-11; and what such costs were in each of the last 12 years. [40391]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The administration costs for the Judicial Pension Scheme for 2010-11 are £400,000.

The Ministry of Justice took on the role of the lead Department for judicial pensions within the United Kingdom from 1 April 2003. The administration costs in each year since then have been £400,000.

#### Judicial Pension Scheme: Personnel

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of members of the Judicial Pension Scheme are (a) (i) part-time and (ii) full-time, (b) (A) male and (B) female and (c) (1) active members, (2) deferred members and (3) pensioners; [40113]

(2) what proportion of (a) active and (b) deferred members of the Judicial Pension Scheme are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65 years. [40118]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The information requested is drawn from several data sources. This is being manually collated by my officials and I will write to the hon. Member with the information as soon as it has been compiled.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of the Judicial Pension Scheme there are. [40114]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The membership figures for the Judicial Pension Scheme are published each year in the Judicial Resource Accounts. The latest figures are set out in the Resource Accounts for 2009-10. They are:

|                         | Number |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Active members          | 2,236  |
| Deferred members        | 6      |
| Pensioners (members)    | 1,077  |
| Pensioners (dependants) | 486    |

#### Prisoners

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners had (a) a home address and (b) no fixed abode on the most recent date for which figures are available. [41077]

**Mr Blunt:** Of 76,100 convicted prisoners, as at 30 November 2010, NOMS central records held a recorded address for 59,800 prisoners. A further 5,700 were recorded as of no fixed abode. Information on a prisoner's residence is provided by prisoners on reception into prison. Recorded addresses can include a prisoner's home address, an address to which they intend to return on discharge or a next of kin address. Some prisoners may declare at reception into prison they are of no fixed abode.

#### Prisoners: Jamaica

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will work with ministerial colleagues to encourage the construction of additional prison capacity in Jamaica to house Jamaican nationals sentenced to terms of imprisonment by UK courts. [40516]

**Mr Blunt:** Yes. Also, officials from the Ministry of Justice are working with the Jamaican authorities to investigate ways of increasing and improving their prison estate, while recognising it is for the Jamaican authorities to decide how best to manage demand on their prisons.

#### Tribunals: Social Security Benefits

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department has been of appeals made to the Tribunals Service against medical assessment decisions since May 2010. [41083]

**Mr Djanogly:** The cost of employment and support allowance and incapacity benefit appeals involving medical assessment decisions disposed of from 1 May to 30 September 2010 is estimated at £22.15 million. This is calculated by multiplying the most recently available average cost of an individual First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support case by the number of completed appeals in this period.

This covers the most recent period for which figures have been published. Figures for quarter 3 of 2010-11 will be published at the end of March.

#### Youth Offending Teams: Redundancy

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many youth offending team employees or contractors (a) in all roles and (b) in frontline roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39883]

(2) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Hounslow (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39956]

(3) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Islington (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39957]

(4) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Kensington and Chelsea (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39958]

(5) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Kingston upon Thames (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39959]

(6) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Lambeth (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39960]

(7) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Lewisham (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39961]

(8) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Merton (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39962]

(9) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Newham (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39963]

(10) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Redbridge (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39964]

(11) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Richmond-upon-Thames (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39965]

(12) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Southwark (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39966]

(13) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Sutton (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39967]

(14) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Tower Hamlets and the City of London (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39968]

(15) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Waltham Forest (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39969]

(16) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wandsworth (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39970]

(17) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Westminster (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39971]

(18) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Darlington (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39972]

(19) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Durham (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39973]

(20) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Gateshead (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39974]

(21) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Hartlepool (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39975]

(22) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Newcastle upon Tyne (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39976]

(23) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in North Tyneside (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39977]

(24) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Northumberland (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39978]

(25) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in South Tees (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39979]



(26) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in South Tyneside (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39980]

(27) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Stockton-on-Tees (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39981]

(28) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Sunderland (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39982]

(29) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Blackburn (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39983]

(30) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Blackpool (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39984]

(31) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in West Sussex (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39985]

(32) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Windsor and Maidenhead (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39986]

(33) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wokingham (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39987]

(34) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Bath and North East Somerset (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39988]

(35) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Bournemouth and Poole (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39989]

(36) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Bristol (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39990]

(37) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39991]

(38) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Devon (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39992]

(39) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Dorset (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39993]

(40) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Gloucestershire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39994]

(41) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in North Somerset (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39995]

(42) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Plymouth (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39996]

(43) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Somerset (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39997]

(44) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in South Gloucestershire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39998]

(45) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Swindon (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [39999]

(46) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Torbay (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40000]

(47) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wiltshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40001]

(48) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Bridgend (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40002]

(49) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40003]

(50) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Cardiff (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40004]

(51) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Carmarthenshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40005]

(52) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Ceredigion (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40006]

(53) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Conwy and Denbighshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40007]

(54) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Flintshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40008]

(55) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Gwynedd and Ynys Môn (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40009]

(56) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Merthyr Tydfil (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40010]

(57) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Neath Port Talbot (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40011]

(58) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Newport (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40012]

(59) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Pembrokeshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40013]

(60) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Powys (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40014]

(61) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Rhondda Cynon Taff (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40015]

(62) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Tameside (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40016]

(63) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in St Helens (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40017]

(64) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Stockport (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40018]

(65) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Trafford (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40019]

(66) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wigan (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40020]

(67) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wirral (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40021]

(68) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Bracknell Forest (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40022]

(69) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Brighton and Hove (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40023]

(70) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Buckinghamshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40024]

(71) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in East Sussex (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40025]

(72) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Kent (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40026]

(73) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Medway (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40027]

(74) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Milton Keynes (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40028]

(75) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Oxfordshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40029]

(76) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Reading (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40030]

(77) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Slough (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40031]





(129) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Torfaen and Monmouthshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40083]

(130) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the Vale of Glamorgan (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40084]

(131) To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wrexham (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40085]

(132) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Birmingham (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40086]

(133) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Coventry (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40087]

(134) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Dudley (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40088]

(135) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Sandwell (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40089]

(136) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Shropshire and Telford and the Wrekin (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40090]

(137) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Solihull (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40091]

(138) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Staffordshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40092]

(139) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Stoke on Trent (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40093]

(140) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Walsall (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40094]

(141) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Warwickshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40095]

(142) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wolverhampton (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40096]

(143) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Worcestershire and Hertfordshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40097]

(144) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Barnsley (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40098]

(145) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Bradford (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40099]

(146) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Calderdale (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40100]

(147) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Doncaster (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40101]

(148) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the East Riding of Yorkshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40102]

(149) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Hull (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40103]

(150) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Kirklees (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40104]

(151) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Leeds (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40105]

(152) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in North East Lincolnshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40106]

(153) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in North Lincolnshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40107]

(154) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in North Yorkshire (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40108]

(155) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Rotherham (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40109]

(156) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Sheffield (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40110]

(157) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wakefield (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40111]

(158) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in York (a) have been made redundant since October 2010, (b) are on notice of redundancy and (c) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40112]

(159) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Wales (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40165]

(160) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the East of England (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40166]

(161) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in Yorkshire and the Humber (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40167]

(162) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the West Midlands (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40168]

(163) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the North West (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since

October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40169]

(164) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the North East (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40170]

(165) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in London (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40171]

(166) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the South East (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40172]

(167) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the East Midlands (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire; [40173]

(168) how many youth offending team employees or contractors in the South West (a) in all roles and (b) in front line roles (i) have been made redundant since October 2010, (ii) are on notice of redundancy and (iii) will not have their contracts renewed once they expire. [40174]

**Mr Blunt:** This information is not held by the Ministry of Justice or the Youth Justice Board. Staff members working in youth offending teams are not employees of the Ministry of Justice or the Youth Justice Board. Youth offending teams are local multi-agency teams with staff employed in a variety of ways by local authorities and some staff seconded from police, probation and health agencies.



## Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 16 February 2011

### TRANSPORT

#### Airports: Security

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice his Department issues to security staff at airports on the x-raying of shoes. [40916]

**Mrs Villiers** [*holding answer 14 February 2011*]: Department for Transport sets the screening requirements and the standards that must be applied to ensure that those entering airside areas of airports are not carrying or concealing a prohibited article. Requirements include the screening of shoes, in certain circumstances.

For reasons of national security it is not possible to provide information on the detail of the guidance provided on shoe screening either in terms of how and when shoes should be selected for x-ray screening, or in terms of the screening process itself.

#### British Chamber of Shipping: Secondment

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many secondments to his Department from the British Chamber of Shipping there have been in each year since 1997; for what (a) periods and (b) jobs such secondments took place; what secondments of staff from his Department have been made to the British Chamber of Shipping; and for what (i) periods and (ii) jobs such secondments have been made in each year since 1997. [40815]

**Mike Penning:** There have been no secondments to or from the central Department for Transport to or from the Chamber of Shipping since 1997.

From June to September 2006 and April to July 2007, two Maritime and Coastguard Agency personnel were seconded to the Chamber of Shipping's Technical and Labour Departments.

#### Departmental Security

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies hold passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [39260]

**Norman Baker:** Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons, it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

### Electric Vehicles

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the emissions arising from charging an electric vehicle through traditional power sources. [37842]

**Norman Baker:** Government research has estimated that, when calculated on a well to wheel basis, emissions arising from recharging an electric vehicle are up to 40% lower than those associated with a petrol equivalent; and up to 30% lower than a diesel equivalent. This calculation assumes that the recharging is based on a standard UK grid mix.

These reduction figures will automatically improve in line with improvements to the environmental performance of the national grid.

#### Northern Rail: Standards

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 146W, on Northern Rail: standards, what information his Department holds on (a) punctuality and (b) cancellation of services on the (i) Seaton Carew and (ii) Hartlepool Heworth lines; and what data his Department uses to monitor quality and timeliness of passenger rail services. [40675]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport does not hold punctuality and cancellation information at the level of detail requested.

Network Rail provides a public performance measure (PPM) of train punctuality for each train operator covering all of an operator's services. Northern Rail provide PPM, cancellation and other train performance information at regional service group level to the Department for Transport. Seaton Carew and Hartlepool stations are in the Tyne, Tees and Wear service group.

Each of the five passenger transport executives (PTEs) assess the quality of delivery of stations and services within their area at least every two months. Independent auditors undertake service quality audits of Northern's stations and trains at least once per year. All results are shared between Northern Rail, the passenger transport executives and the Department.

#### Railway Stations: Repairs and Maintenance

**Anne Marie Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway stations in Devon have been renovated as part of the National Station Improvement programme. [39255]

**Mrs Villiers:** Five stations in Devon have been identified by the industry for improvement under the National Stations Improvement programme. Improvements at Honiton station are currently underway and improvements at Newton Abbott, Exeter St David's, Exeter Central and Plymouth are planned in the future as part of the programme.

#### Rolling Stock: Expenditure

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the (a) East Midlands Trains, (b) Northern Rail, (c) Cross Country, (d) First TransPennine Express

and (e) East Coast rail franchises have paid to rolling stock companies since the start of each franchise; and how much of that money each rolling stock company has spent on rolling stock to be operated by each franchise.

[41095]

**Mrs Villiers:** The rolling stock companies own the rolling stock which is then leased to the operators during the term of the franchise agreement. The details of these agreements are commercially confidential between the parties.

#### Shipping: Suffolk

**Dr Thérèse Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the (a) causes and (b) safety implications of the recent collision between a recreational fishing vessel and a tanker off the coastline in the Sole Bay area.

[41053]

**Mike Penning:** On 9 February the 10 million charter boat "Chloe-Paige" with two crew was struck off Lowestoft by the 200,000-tonne "Zaliv Vostok" tanker while "Chloe-Paige" was anchored.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch are aware of the collision and are in the process of gathering information from the owner/manager of "Zaliv Vostok" and "Chloe-Paige".

#### Southeastern Trains

**Mr Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the performance data for each relevant reporting period submitted to his Department by Southeastern Trains in respect of the review of the continuation of the franchise before any decision is taken on its renewal.

[41214]

**Mrs Villiers:** As part of the work relating to the Southeastern continuation review I am considering what information will be published. An announcement will be made on the results of the continuation review in due course.

### INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

#### Communication Officers

**Bob Russell:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will request from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority the career history of those people employed as communications officers.

[39159]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 11 February 2011:*

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for publication of the career history of those people employed as communications officers for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

Details of the career history of our Director of Communications are available on IPSA's website. I will not, however, be releasing details of the career history of the other two members of the communications team as these members of staff do not form part of IPSA's senior management and I consider this to constitute personal information which should be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many communications officers the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority employs.

[39160]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 11 February 2011:*

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, how many communications officers are employed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

Our communications team consists of three people.

#### Members: Allowances

**Bob Russell:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many apologies the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has issued to hon. Members for wrongly rejecting claims for expenditure incurred.

[39154]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 11 February 2011:*

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many apologies the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has issued to hon. Members for wrongly rejecting claims for expenditure incurred.

IPSA does not keep a record of apologies it has issued for wrongly rejecting claims. We do, of course, apologise whenever we have acted in error.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) will take steps to ensure all communications between IPSA and hon. Members for the purposes of clarification of a submitted claim are required to take place on the telephone.

[39158]

**Mr Charles Walker:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

*Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 11 February 2011:*

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) will take steps to ensure all communication between IPSA and hon. Members for the purposes of clarification of a submitted claim is required to take place on the telephone.

We have no plans to take such steps. Whilst we do provide support and advice to MPs by telephone, we do not believe that it is appropriate or beneficial to make this the sole method of communication for the purposes suggested.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Crime: Drugs

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to reduce the manufacture of illicit synthetic drugs in the UK; and if she will make a statement; [40584]

(2) what steps she is taking to reduce the number of illicit drug factories in local communities; and if she will make a statement; [40585]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effects of spending reductions for Safer Neighbourhood Teams on steps to reduce the number of illicit drug factories; and if she will make a statement. [40586]

**James Brokenshire:** The Government take the issue of synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (so called 'legal highs') very seriously. The manufacture and trafficking in controlled drugs of all classes need to be tackled robustly in order to reduce the harm drugs cause to communities and the organised criminality associated with their supply.

On 30 November 2010, we introduced to this House legislative proposals, in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 with provisions for temporary banning powers on new 'legal highs'. This will give the police and other law enforcement agencies the power to act, enabling them to seize these drugs and prosecute those who are selling them.

Those caught supplying or trafficking a temporary ban drug will be committing a serious offence and subject to a maximum of 14 years in prison and an unlimited fine. Where an individual is found in possession of a temporary ban drug for personal use, police will have powers to seize and destroy it.

Evidence indicates that these synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances are manufactured outside the UK and that is why we need to concentrate the full force of the law at our borders to stop these drugs from getting into the UK. The UK Border Agency are undertaking effective enforcement action against those criminal gangs who traffic these drugs across our borders, by seizing and destroying shipments of illegal drugs and those 'legal highs' that are subject to an import ban under the Open General Import Licence.

On 1 January 2011, the Home Office launched a three-month pilot to explore improvements to the current forensic early warning system for identifying new and emerging drugs. As part of this pilot, we are introducing new forensic technology at the borders to support UK Border Agency with the identification of any new drug being imported into the UK.

Investigations into allegations of illegal synthetic drug manufacture within the UK is a matter for the police, who must prioritise resources towards tackling crime, including drug-related crime, with a focus on those

offences which cause the most harm. Where drug factories pose a threat within a community, these will become a focus of police activity.

No formal assessment has been made of the effects of spending reductions for safer neighbourhood teams in relation to drug enforcement. We have sustained the investment in neighbourhood policing funding for the next two financial years to ensure police crime commissioners (PCCs) inherit strong neighbourhood policing infrastructure.

The exception to this is in London, where the Metropolitan police authority will have full autonomy over this funding from 2011-12, in recognition of the role the Mayor of London and the Deputy Mayor already play in policing. There is no need for visible and available policing to diminish because of the spending settlement, provided that forces focus on driving out wasteful spending and increasing efficiency in the back office that they can make.

### Driving Under Influence of Drugs

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to introduce equipment to test motorists suspected of driving under the influence of drugs. [41213]

**James Brokenshire:** Devices used for this purpose must be of a type approved by the Secretary of State. We recently issued a specification for a device that could be type approved for use at police stations and have invited manufacturers to submit devices to the type approval process by the end of February. How soon devices might gain approval will depend on the response of manufacturers and how well their devices perform in the rigorous testing regime. It will then be a matter for individual chief officers of police to decide on purchase.

### Revenue and Customs: X-rays

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure HM Revenue and Customs incurred in operating X-ray scanners in 2009-10. [41051]

**Damian Green:** The United Kingdom Border Force recorded an operating cost for 'Scientific Aids' of £3.4 million in the financial year 2009-10.

## SCOTLAND

### Petrochemicals

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with INEOS Grangemouth and PetroChina on their agreement for technology sharing in the field of petrochemicals. [41116]

**David Mundell:** The arrangement, including the technology sharing agreement, was a commercial matter between the two companies. The Government fully support an open, market-based approach to the development of the downstream oil sector, and welcome inward investment that benefits UK companies, providing a platform for growth in the wider economy.



## JUSTICE

### Child Maintenance

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases at Bexley magistrates court have involved child maintenance issues in the most recent period for which figures are available. [40555]

**Mr Djanogly:** There were fewer than five financial applications made under schedule 1(2) of the Children's Act 1989 (financial provision for children) at Bexley Family Proceedings Court during the period January 2010 to September 2010, which is the latest period for which data are available.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40518]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) offsets carbon emissions caused by official air travel. Not only does this mitigate environmental damage caused by aeroplane exhaust emissions, it helps focus the MOJ on alternate methods of travel and communication e.g. video conferencing.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change handles the tender process for all central Government carbon offsetting schemes as part of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. More information on this can be found at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm>

Phase I of the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility covers April 2006 to March 2009. The tender was won by Trading Emissions plc and its investment adviser EEA Fund Management. In those years, the MOJ spent:

|         | £      |
|---------|--------|
| 2006-07 | 607    |
| 2007-08 | 14,825 |
| 2008-09 | 14,956 |

Phase II of the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility covers April 2009 to March 2012. The tender applicable to the MOJ was won by EDF Trading for spot purchases and Essent Trading International SA for forward purchases. The MOJ has so far paid £14,248 for spot purchases and £15,574.68 for forward purchases.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of its requirements for annually managed expenditure in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [41334]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has now received a spending review 2010 funding settlement with HM Treasury, covering both resource and capital departmental expenditure limits (DEL). This did not

include the annually managed expenditure (AME). Departmental AME spending is voted on through the supply estimates process.

The MoJ is currently reviewing the AME requirement and will be working with HM Treasury to agree suitable non cash funding to be voted on through the main estimate.

### Drugs: Sentencing

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the comparative length of sentences given to people convicted of (a) possession and (b) possession with intent to supply of (i) cocaine, (ii) heroin and (iii) ecstasy; and if he will make a statement. [40552]

**Mr Blunt:** The Sentencing Council is currently developing a sentencing guideline on drug offences. An important part of that work is an assessment of current sentencing practice to inform the guideline, which will be subject to public consultation before it is finalised.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of a sentence given to people convicted of (a) possession and (b) possession with intent to supply of (i) cocaine, (ii) heroin and (iii) ecstasy was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [40553]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of persons found guilty, sentenced and the average custodial length of sentence at all courts for 'possession of', and 'possession with intent to supply', cocaine, heroin, and ecstasy, England and Wales 2009 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring, 2011.

*Number of persons found guilty, sentenced and the average custodial sentence length at all courts for offences relating to 'possession of' or 'possession with intent to supply' Cocaine, Heroin, Ecstasy, in England and Wales, 2009<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>*

| Offence description                                                 | Cocaine | Heroin | Ecstasy |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| <i>Having possession of a controlled drug:</i>                      |         |        |         |
| Found guilty                                                        | 5,606   | 4,919  | 631     |
| Sentenced <sup>4</sup>                                              | 5,572   | 4,883  | 639     |
| <i>Of which:</i>                                                    |         |        |         |
| Immediate Custody                                                   | 240     | 323    | 26      |
| Other sentences <sup>5</sup>                                        | 5,332   | 4,560  | 613     |
| Average custodial sentence length (months)                          | 8.5     | 3.8    | 4.1     |
| <i>Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply</i> |         |        |         |
| Found guilty                                                        | 1,640   | 1,190  | 197     |
| Sentenced <sup>4</sup>                                              | 1,670   | 1,205  | 203     |
| <i>Of which:</i>                                                    |         |        |         |
| Immediate Custody                                                   | 1,303   | 953    | 125     |
| Other sentences <sup>5</sup>                                        | 367     | 252    | 78      |
| Average custodial sentence length (months)                          | 36.6    | 37.6   | 25.8    |

<sup>1</sup> The following statutes were used for the corresponding offences:  
Having possession of a controlled drug—Cocaine  
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S 5(2) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

Having possession of a controlled drug—Heroin  
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S 5(2) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.157 Sch.8

Having possession of a controlled drug—MDMA (Ecstasy)  
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S 5(2) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply—Cocaine

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, S.5(3)

Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply—Heroin

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, S.5(3)

Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply—MDMA

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, S.5(3)

<sup>2</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>3</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>4</sup> The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

<sup>5</sup> Absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects on the prison population of implementation of the provisions of the Drugs Act 2005. [41033]

**Mr Blunt:** An assessment of the Drugs Act 2005 was published in September 2010. It was not possible to

measure the Act's overall impact on the prison population as part of this assessment. However, we do know that provisions in the Act have increased the number of those drug tested and referred into treatment through the Criminal Justice System.

Building on this, the Government's sentencing and rehabilitation Green Paper and its Drug Strategy both include commitments to encourage drug-misusing offenders into recovery based treatment.

In prisons we will: work with health services to reshape existing drug treatment; establish drug recovery wings focusing on recovery and abstinence; and connect offenders with community drug recovery services on release.

In the community, we want sentencing reforms to encourage offenders to engage with recovery based treatment and tough community sentences.

### Employment Tribunals

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employment tribunals were cancelled less than 24 hours before the scheduled sitting in the latest period for which figures are available. [40732]

**Mr Djanogly:** Listing of hearings in cases (including the cancellation, postponement or adjournment of cases) is a judicial matter. Once listed, 'cancellations' can occur, for example, where the claim is resolved, settled or withdrawn before the hearing is scheduled to take place; where a postponement request is made by one or both of the parties and accepted by the tribunal; or where the employment tribunal itself postpones the hearing on its own volition.

The following table shows all such cancellations over the course of the financial year 2009-10 that were effected within 24 hours of the scheduled sitting. The data provided are broken down to show cases that were cancelled (including postponed) on the actual day of the hearing, and on the previous day.

Settlements, withdrawals and postponements notified prior to or on day of hearing

|                                  | Settlements/<br>withdrawals | Postponement by<br>tribunal | Postponement by<br>claimant | Postponement by<br>respondent | Total cancellations |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Notified day of hearing          | 1,240                       | 239                         | 1,458                       | 19                            | 2,956               |
| Notified day prior to<br>hearing | 4,072                       | 1,649                       | 8,028                       | 271                           | 14,020              |

Source:

Employment Tribunal Central database February 2011

### Legal Aid

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has discussed with ministerial colleagues the findings in paragraph 27 of the impact assessment of his cumulative proposals for reform of legal aid in respect of the potential effects on (a) resource costs for and (b) transfer payments to other departments of any significant reduction in fairness of dispute resolution arising from implementation of his proposals; [40632]

(2) whether he has discussed with (a) the Chancellor of the Exchequer and (b) the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills the findings in paragraph 27 of the impact assessment of his cumulative proposals for reform of legal aid in respect of the potential effects on levels of (i) economic efficiency and (ii) business

efficiency of any significant reduction in fairness of dispute resolution arising from implementation of his proposals; [40633]

(3) whether he has discussed with the Secretary of State for (a) the Home Department and (b) Communities and Local Government the findings in paragraph 27 of the impact assessment of his cumulative proposals for reform of legal aid in respect of the potential effect on levels of (i) social inclusion and (ii) criminality of any significant reduction in fairness of dispute resolution arising from implementation of his proposals. [40634]

**Mr Djanogly:** Extensive discussions, at both ministerial and official levels, have been conducted with other Government Departments on a range of issues. These discussions will continue as we finalise proposals.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with not-for-profit advice organisations on the likely effects on them of loss of funding streams from legal aid budgets; and if he will make a statement. [40670]

**Mr Djanogly:** I have met with a number of representatives from the not-for-profit organisations recently to discuss the proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales.

Not-for-profit providers receive funding from a variety of sources including legal aid. However income from legal aid represents a minority of the funding of the not for profit advice sector.

We are working closely with colleagues in other Departments who fund not-for-profit advice providers to identify how best to take a cross-Government approach to this issue. I recently met with the Minister for Civil Society, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd) to discuss how this can best be achieved.

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of claims brought against Government Departments and other public bodies by employees under no-win, no-fee contracts with their legal representatives. [40731]

**The Attorney-General:** I have been asked to reply.

No estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of such claims. Insufficient data are available to support the making of a meaningful estimate.

Most employment, and employment-related, claims against Government are taken in the Employment Tribunals. Under existing procedural rules governing claims made by employees before the Employment Tribunals, there is no requirement to notify a respondent employer that a conditional fee (no-win, no-fee) agreement (CFA) is in place, unlike in the civil Courts. Legal representatives will not divulge such an arrangement unless they are required to as, first, they have an obligation of confidentiality to their clients; secondly, knowledge of such will give negotiating advantage to their opponents; and, thirdly, Employment Tribunals are generally a no costs jurisdiction, where awards of costs are not made unless the claim or defence has been "frivolous, vexatious or otherwise unreasonable". In the circumstances, it would not be possible to keep any sort of accurate record of the incidence of such agreements in these cases, or to make an assessment of their impact upon the outcomes of claims.

#### Legal Aid: Mental Health

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Health the potential effects of the proposed removal of legal aid funding for face-to-face assistance with financial entitlement matters on the incidence of mental ill-health arising from such matters. [40672]

**Mr Djanogly:** We have recently had discussions with a number of ministerial colleagues regarding a range of matters affecting our respective Departments, including the potential impact of the proposals for reform of legal aid.

An impact on the incidence of mental health issues, as a result of the proposals for reform of legal aid, has not been identified at this time. However, our consultation "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" closed on 14 February 2011 and we are in the process of considering the responses. If appropriate, it will be addressed in our response paper and the associated Impact Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments, which is planned to be published in the spring.

#### Legal Aid: Personal Injury and Negligence

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for future provision of legal aid to people in respect of (a) personal injury and (b) clinical negligence cases; and if he will make a statement. [41009]

**Mr Djanogly:** On 15 November the Secretary of State for Justice announced the publication of a consultation on a package of proposals for the reform of legal aid. The consultation proposes that legal aid ceases to be available for clinical negligence matters.

Most personal injury cases were removed from the scope of the civil legal aid scheme by the Access to Justice Act 1999. Legal aid funding is still available for claims, including personal injury claims, against public authorities alleging serious wrong-doing, abuse of position of power or significant breach of human rights. We have proposed replacing the existing "serious wrong-doing" ground for funding, and replacing it with "negligent acts or omissions falling very far below the required standard of care" as a ground for funding these claims.

Funding is currently available for any claim, including a personal injury claim, which has a significant wider public interest. The current consultation proposes to abolish the rule which brings back into the scope of civil legal aid any case which has a significant wider public interest. While the Government recognises that public interest is an important factor, which should continue to be reflected in the Funding Code merits criteria for granting civil legal aid, we do not consider that it should be either a solely determinative factor in deciding whether legal aid should be granted, or a basis for bringing back into scope otherwise excluded cases.

Funding is available for claims, including personal injury claims, arising from allegations of abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, or sexual assault.

We have proposed that these cases remain within the scope of civil legal aid. Funding is available for housing cases, as defined by the civil legal aid Funding Code, including for housing personal injury claims. We have proposed that housing personal injury claims are removed from the scope of civil legal aid.

Legal aid is also available for advice on applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. We have proposed that this advice ceases to be in scope for legal aid because the application is a straight-forward one and assistance is available from the authority.

The consultation paper: "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" is available at the Ministry of Justice website at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform-151110.htm>



### Legal Aid: Rochdale

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on the provision of legal aid in Rochdale constituency in each of the last five years. [40635]

**Mr Djanogly:** The information requested is not readily available as for example payments to criminal barristers cannot easily be broken down by the location of the barrister or client. The information therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Simon Danczuk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Rochdale constituency received legal aid in each of the last five years. [40636]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales.

The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The following table show the numbers of acts of assistance delivered by legal aid providers with postcodes falling within the Rochdale constituency.

|                                                       | Rochdale constituency—legal aid acts of assistance <sup>1</sup> |         |         |         |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                       | Financial year                                                  |         |         |         |         |
|                                                       | 2005-06                                                         | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
| Civil Representation certificates issued              | 377                                                             | 363     | 305     | 303     | 364     |
| Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration | 2,454                                                           | 2,134   | 2,046   | 2,099   | 2,070   |
| Crime Higher case volumes                             | 354                                                             | 358     | 412     | 472     | 487     |
| Crime Lower claim volumes                             | 5,132                                                           | 4,762   | 4,923   | 5,039   | 4,953   |
| Total                                                 | 8,317                                                           | 7,617   | 7,686   | 7,913   | 7,874   |

<sup>1</sup> The figures do not include legal aid received via telephone advice, the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme, telephone triage, or family mediation.

### Legal Aid: Social Security Benefits

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the savings that would accrue to the Exchequer from ceasing to provide legal aid for advice in relation to decisions about welfare benefits in terms of (a) total managed expenditure and (b) annually managed expenditure in respect of each department; and if he will make a statement. [40858]

**Mr Djanogly:** There is no intention to make such an estimate; nor would it be possible to do so to any degree of accuracy.

### Legal Aid: Third Sector

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an estimate of (a) the number of not-for-profit organisations who rely on funding from legal aid streams and (b) the number of such organisations

that would cease to operate without legal aid funding; and if he will make a statement. [40671]

**Mr Djanogly:** The LSC hold legal aid contracts with a number of not-for-profit organisations. However, this information is being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available. Many not-for-profit providers receive funding from a variety of sources including legal aid. However income from legal aid represents a minority of the funding of the not-for-profit advice sector. It is therefore not possible to determine with any certainty which organisations would cease to operate without legal aid.

We are working closely with colleagues in other Departments who fund advice providers, to identify how best to take a cross-Government approach to this issue. I recently met with the Minister for Civil Society, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd) to discuss how this can best be achieved.

We published initial impact assessments and equality impact assessments along with our reform proposals, which considered the effect on the not for profit sector. We sought the views of not for profit organisations during the consultation which ended on 14 February. The consultation response which is due to be published in the spring will feature accompanying full impact assessments and equality impact assessments.

### Legal Profession

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of lawyers per 10,000 head of population. [40840]

**Mr Djanogly:** The number of authorised persons, who are often referred to as lawyers, providing reserved legal activities in England and Wales at 1 April 2009, as collated by the Legal Services Board, totals 140,124. Of those approximately 113,000 were solicitors. The Office for National Statistics estimates that the mid-year population of England and Wales for 2009 totalled 54,809,100. This equates to approximately 26 'lawyers' per 10,000 head of population in England and Wales.

### National Offender Management Service: Qualifications

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of all those employed at the (a) head office and (b) regional offices of the National Offender Management Service have (i) a probation qualification, (ii) a prison service qualification, (iii) experience in probation work and (iv) experience in prison service work. [41070]

**Mr Blunt:** Information about the qualifications and experience of individual members of staff is not held centrally. To obtain the information requested would involve identifying and contacting sources of information in many different locations and would thus incur disproportionate cost.

### Offensive Weapons: Prison Sentences

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were (a) convicted, (b) cautioned and (c) given custodial sentences for possession of a

blade or an instrument in each year between 1991 and 2010; [40862]

(2) how many people were (a) convicted, (b) cautioned and (c) given custodial sentences for possession of an article with a blade or point in each year between 1991 and 2010; [40863]

(3) how many people were (a) convicted, (b) cautioned and (c) given custodial sentences for possession of a knife in each year between 1991 and 2010. [40864]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of persons cautioned and the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences relating to possession of an article with a blade or point, England and Wales 1991 to 2009 (latest available) are shown in the tables.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

*Persons cautioned, and the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences relating to possession of an article with a blade or point<sup>1</sup>, England and Wales 1991 to 2009<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>*

|                              | 1991  | 1992  | 1993  | 1994  | 1995  | 1996 <sup>6</sup> | 1997  | 1998  | 1999  | 2000  |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cautioned                    | 704   | 1,055 | 1,282 | 1,292 | 1,512 | 1,302             | 1,629 | 1,976 | 1,663 | 1,758 |
| Proceeded against            | 2,397 | 2,640 | 2,553 | 3,366 | 3,474 | 3,605             | 4,489 | 4,888 | 4,566 | 4,673 |
| Found guilty                 | 1,737 | 1,848 | 1,852 | 2,502 | 2,559 | 2,665             | 3,360 | 3,805 | 3,548 | 3,555 |
| Sentenced <sup>8</sup>       | 1,729 | 1,847 | 1,853 | 2,501 | 2,558 | 2,666             | 3,360 | 3,804 | 3,564 | 3,562 |
| Of which:                    |       |       |       |       |       |                   |       |       |       |       |
| Immediate custody            | 5     | 1     | 1     | 4     | 5     | 62                | 375   | 550   | 536   | 506   |
| Other sentences <sup>9</sup> | 1,724 | 1,846 | 1,852 | 2,497 | 2,553 | 2,604             | 2,985 | 3,254 | 3,028 | 3,056 |

|                              | 2001  | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008 <sup>7</sup> | 2009  |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Cautioned                    | 1,652 | 1,805 | 1,746 | 2,374 | 3,154 | 3,503 | 3,460 | 2,589             | 1,641 |
| Proceeded against            | 5,823 | 6,963 | 6,928 | 7,352 | 7,319 | 7,699 | 7,404 | 7,547             | 9,235 |
| Found guilty                 | 4,361 | 5,338 | 5,396 | 5,890 | 6,005 | 6,369 | 6,169 | 6,368             | 7,646 |
| Sentenced <sup>8</sup>       | 4,364 | 5,326 | 5,399 | 5,908 | 6,002 | 6,334 | 6,166 | 6,453             | 7,678 |
| Of which:                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                   |       |
| Immediate custody            | 592   | 773   | 761   | 815   | 970   | 1,075 | 1,065 | 1,377             | 1,675 |
| Other sentences <sup>9</sup> | 3,772 | 4,553 | 4,638 | 5,093 | 5,032 | 5,259 | 5,101 | 5,076             | 6,003 |

<sup>1</sup> Offences used:

Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3—Having an article with blade or point in public place

Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1) & (5)(a) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)—Having an article with blade or point on school premises

<sup>2</sup> The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

<sup>3</sup> From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.

<sup>4</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>5</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>6</sup> In July 2006 this offence changed from being a summary to a triable either-way offence.

<sup>7</sup> Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

<sup>8</sup> The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

<sup>9</sup> Includes: Absolute/conditional discharge, Community Sentence, Suspended Sentence and Otherwise dealt with.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulted in a (a) caution, (b) absolute or conditional discharge, (c) fine, (d) community sentence, (e) suspended sentence, (f) immediate custody and (g) other disposal in each year from 1991 to 2011.

[40780]

**Mr Blunt:** Information collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice does not include the circumstances of each case other than where specified in a statute. It is not possible therefore to separately identify from this

information those offences proceeded against which also included the possession of a knife or offensive weapon.

### Prison Sentences

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were convicted of burglary and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40741]

(2) how many people were convicted of sexual assault and received a custodial sentence of less than

(a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40742]

(3) how many people were convicted of grievous bodily harm and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40743]

(4) how many people were convicted of rape and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40744]

(5) how many people were convicted of manslaughter and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40745]

(6) how many people were convicted of attempted murder and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40746]

(7) how many people were convicted of forgery and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40747]

(8) how many people were convicted of fraud and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40748]

(9) how many people were convicted of theft of a motor vehicle and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40749]

(10) how many people were convicted of theft from a person and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40750]

(11) how many people were convicted of robbery and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40751]

(12) how many people were convicted of sexual activity with a child under 16 and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40752]

(13) how many people were convicted of sexual activity with a child under 13 and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40753]

(14) how many people were convicted of sexual assault of a female and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years,

(d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40754]

(15) how many people were convicted of rape of a male and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40755]

(16) how many people were convicted of rape of a female and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40756]

(17) how many people were convicted of sexual assault on a male and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40757]

(18) how many people were convicted of child abduction and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40758]

(19) how many people were convicted of abandoning children aged under two years and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40759]

(20) how many people were convicted of cruelty or neglect of children and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40760]

(21) how many people were convicted of wounding or other acts endangering life and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40761]

(22) how many people were convicted of causing death by aggravated vehicle-taking and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40762]

(23) how many people were convicted of causing death by driving while unlicensed or uninsured and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40763]

(24) how many people were convicted of causing death of a child or vulnerable person and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40764]

(25) how many people were convicted of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40765]



(26) how many people were convicted of manslaughter due to diminished responsibility and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40766]

(27) how many people were convicted of causing death by reckless driving and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40767]

(28) how many people were convicted of threat or conspiracy to murder and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40768]

(29) how many people were convicted of perverting the course of justice and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40769]

(30) how many people were convicted of violent disorder and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40770]

(31) how many people were convicted of kidnapping and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40771]

(32) how many people were convicted of blackmail and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40772]

(33) how many people were convicted of intent to supply a controlled drug and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years,

(c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40773]

(34) how many people were convicted of possession of a controlled drug and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40774]

(35) how many people were convicted of criminal damage and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40775]

(36) how many people were convicted of arson and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40776]

(37) how many people were convicted of common assault and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40777]

(38) how many people were convicted of dangerous driving and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available; [40778]

(39) how many people were convicted of a firearms offence and received a custodial sentence of less than (a) four years, (b) three years, (c) two years, (d) one year, (e) six months and (f) four months in the latest period for which figures are available. [40779]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by sentence breakdown and sentence length, England and Wales 2009 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by sentence breakdown and sentence length, England and Wales, 2009<sup>1, 2</sup>*

| Offences                          | Found guilty | Sentenced <sup>3</sup> | Immediate custody | Length of sentence |                                  |                                |                               |                                |                                |              |        | Other disposals <sup>4</sup> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------|------------------------------|
|                                   |              |                        |                   | Less than 4 months | Over 4 months and up to 6 months | Over 6 months and up to 1 year | Over 1 year and up to 2 years | Over 2 years and up to 3 years | Over 3 years and up to 4 years | Over 4 years |        |                              |
| Burglary                          | 22,973       | 22,758                 | 10,026            | 2,153              | 961                              | 1,890                          | 2,259                         | 1,685                          | 653                            | 425          | 12,732 |                              |
| Sexual assault                    | 2,070        | 2,060                  | 1,053             | 88                 | 44                               | 154                            | 259                           | 177                            | 110                            | 221          | 1,007  |                              |
| Grievous bodily harm <sup>5</sup> | 6,463        | 6,440                  | 4,147             | 56                 | 113                              | 808                            | 1,320                         | 627                            | 409                            | 814          | 2,293  |                              |
| Rape                              | 997          | 999                    | 941               | 1                  | 1                                | 3                              | 18                            | 31                             | 62                             | 825          | 58     |                              |
| Manslaughter                      | 219          | 219                    | 202               | —                  | —                                | 4                              | 17                            | 35                             | 18                             | 128          | 17     |                              |
| Attempted murder                  | 91           | 92                     | 84                | —                  | —                                | —                              | —                             | —                              | —                              | 84           | 8      |                              |
| Forgery                           | 4,290        | 4,294                  | 2,609             | 359                | 804                              | 1,206                          | 197                           | 22                             | 13                             | 8            | 1,685  |                              |
| Fraud                             | 16,732       | 16,638                 | 2,778             | 970                | 364                              | 681                            | 475                           | 159                            | 63                             | 66           | 13,860 |                              |
| Theft of a motor vehicle          | 852          | 851                    | 236               | 140                | 41                               | 25                             | 24                            | 4                              | 2                              | —            | 615    |                              |
| Theft from a person               | 5,899        | 6,122                  | 1,959             | 974                | 305                              | 346                            | 226                           | 69                             | 29                             | 10           | 4,163  |                              |
| Robbery offences                  | 8,644        | 8,663                  | 5,155             | 121                | 147                              | 739                            | 1,313                         | 1,040                          | 773                            | 1,022        | 3,508  |                              |

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by sentence breakdown and sentence length, England and Wales, 2009<sup>1, 2</sup>

| Offences                                                                 | Found guilty | Sentenced <sup>a</sup> | Immediate custody | Length of sentence |                                  |                                |                               |                                |                                |              |       | Other disposals <sup>a</sup> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------------|
|                                                                          |              |                        |                   | Less than 4 months | Over 4 months and up to 6 months | Over 6 months and up to 1 year | Over 1 year and up to 2 years | Over 2 years and up to 3 years | Over 3 years and up to 4 years | Over 4 years |       |                              |
| Sexual activity with a child under 16                                    | 762          | 751                    | 472               | 7                  | 9                                | 50                             | 138                           | 109                            | 78                             | 81           | 279   |                              |
| Sexual activity with a child under 13                                    | 207          | 201                    | 86                | 3                  | 3                                | 13                             | 22                            | 10                             | 13                             | 22           | 115   |                              |
| Sexual assault of a female                                               | 1,867        | 1,851                  | 935               | 83                 | 41                               | 137                            | 225                           | 156                            | 97                             | 196          | 916   |                              |
| Rape of a male                                                           | 65           | 66                     | 56                | —                  | —                                | —                              | 5                             | 2                              | 5                              | 44           | 10    |                              |
| Rape of a female                                                         | 932          | 933                    | 885               | 1                  | 1                                | 3                              | 13                            | 29                             | 57                             | 781          | 48    |                              |
| Sexual assault on a male                                                 | 203          | 209                    | 118               | 5                  | 3                                | 17                             | 34                            | 21                             | 13                             | 25           | 91    |                              |
| Child abduction                                                          | 55           | 56                     | 16                | —                  | 1                                | 4                              | 6                             | 3                              | —                              | 2            | 40    |                              |
| Abandoning children                                                      | 2            | 2                      | 1                 | —                  | 1                                | —                              | —                             | —                              | —                              | —            | 1     |                              |
| Cruelty or neglect of children                                           | 720          | 714                    | 158               | 25                 | 19                               | 42                             | 38                            | 17                             | 7                              | 10           | 556   |                              |
| Wounding or other acts endangering life                                  | 1,886        | 1,884                  | 1,626             | 12                 | 8                                | 29                             | 131                           | 291                            | 341                            | 814          | 258   |                              |
| Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking offences                      | 10           | 9                      | 7                 | —                  | 1                                | 2                              | —                             | 1                              | 3                              | —            | 2     |                              |
| Causing death by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers   | 11           | 10                     | 1                 | —                  | 1                                | —                              | —                             | —                              | —                              | —            | 9     |                              |
| Causing death of a child or vulnerable person                            | 13           | 13                     | 11                | —                  | —                                | 3                              | 2                             | 1                              | —                              | 5            | 2     |                              |
| Causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink and drugs | 35           | 35                     | 33                | —                  | 1                                | 2                              | 1                             | 6                              | 7                              | 16           | 2     |                              |
| Manslaughter due to diminished responsibility                            | 8            | 8                      | 4                 | —                  | —                                | —                              | —                             | —                              | 1                              | 3            | 4     |                              |
| Causing death by reckless driving                                        | 225          | 233                    | 218               | 3                  | 5                                | 14                             | 51                            | 41                             | 29                             | 75           | 15    |                              |
| Threat or conspiracy to murder                                           | 417          | 397                    | 182               | 20                 | 28                               | 33                             | 50                            | 21                             | 6                              | 24           | 215   |                              |
| Perverting the course of justice                                         | 1,797        | 1,790                  | 748               | 245                | 154                              | 224                            | 94                            | 16                             | 14                             | 1            | 1,042 |                              |
| Violent disorder                                                         | 466          | 461                    | 268               | 8                  | 9                                | 84                             | 133                           | 28                             | 5                              | 1            | 193   |                              |
| Kidnapping                                                               | 427          | 426                    | 310               | —                  | 8                                | 31                             | 70                            | 58                             | 41                             | 102          | 116   |                              |
| Blackmail                                                                | 176          | 177                    | 132               | 1                  | 4                                | 11                             | 33                            | 24                             | 24                             | 35           | 45    |                              |

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by sentence breakdown and sentence length, England and Wales, 2009<sup>1, 2</sup>

| Number of persons found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by sentence breakdown and sentence length, England and Wales, 2007 |              |                        |                   |                    |                                  |                                |                               |                                |                                |              |                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Offences                                                                                                                               | Found guilty | Sentenced <sup>3</sup> | Immediate custody | Length of sentence |                                  |                                |                               |                                |                                |              |                              |
|                                                                                                                                        |              |                        |                   | Less than 4 months | Over 4 months and up to 6 months | Over 6 months and up to 1 year | Over 1 year and up to 2 years | Over 2 years and up to 3 years | Over 3 years and up to 4 years | Over 4 years | Other disposals <sup>4</sup> |
| Intent to supply a controlled drug                                                                                                     | 6,349        | 6,394                  | 3,701             | 102                | 114                              | 478                            | 1,031                         | 879                            | 591                            | 506          | 2,693                        |
| Possession of a controlled drug                                                                                                        | 41,306       | 41,071                 | 1,286             | 1,078              | 70                               | 45                             | 44                            | 15                             | 11                             | 23           | 39,785                       |
| Criminal damage                                                                                                                        | 39,550       | 39,497                 | 1,800             | 1,636              | 50                               | 44                             | 41                            | 14                             | 9                              | 6            | 37,697                       |
| Arson                                                                                                                                  | 1,461        | 1,449                  | 549               | 43                 | 24                               | 48                             | 128                           | 101                            | 90                             | 115          | 900                          |
| Common assault                                                                                                                         | 52,738       | 52,849                 | 6,787             | 5,676              | 1,101                            | 8                              | 2                             | —                              | —                              | —            | 46,062                       |
| Dangerous driving                                                                                                                      | 3,386        | 3,483                  | 1,309             | 224                | 250                              | 615                            | 220                           | —                              | —                              | —            | 2,174                        |
| Firearms <sup>6</sup>                                                                                                                  | 1,850        | 1,852                  | 827               | 52                 | 31                               | 98                             | 123                           | 122                            | 44                             | 357          | 1,025                        |
| Total                                                                                                                                  | 226,154      | 225,957                | 51,716            | 14,086             | 4,717                            | 7,891                          | 8,743                         | 5,814                          | 3,618                          | 6,847        | 174,241                      |

<sup>1</sup> The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>2</sup> Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>3</sup> The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

<sup>4</sup> Includes: Absolute/conditional discharge, Community Sentence, Suspended Sentence and Otherwise dealt with.

<sup>5</sup> Grievous Bodily Harm offences form part of the offence group of malicious wounding offences.

<sup>6</sup> Includes possession, certificate related and miscellaneous firearms offences.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

### Prison Service: ICT

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who in his Department signed off the contract for central procurement of IT equipment in prisons. [40954]

**Mr Blunt:** The Quantum contract between the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Electronic Data Systems Ltd for the provision of ICT to HM Prison Services was signed by Claire Pelham, Director of Corporate Affairs of HM Prison Service on 29 February 2000.

### Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

**Mr Liwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether it is the policy of prison establishments to ask inmates at reception whether they have served in the armed forces. [41020]

**Mr Blunt:** Prison reception staff are not required to ask newly arrived prisoners whether they have served in the armed forces. However, prisoners have the opportunity to discuss aspects of their background with staff during the induction and assessment processes. Governors of more than 100 prison establishments have made resources available to support the Veterans in Custody Support scheme, which encourages veteran prisoners to disclose their status, if they chose to do so.

### Prisons: Asbestos

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he has taken to identify the presence of asbestos in the fabric of prisons; and if he will make a statement; [41195]

(2) in which prisons it is known that asbestos is present in the fabric of the buildings; and when the asbestos was detected in each case; [41196]

(3) whether asbestos was known to be present in the fabric of Ford Open Prison on 31 December 2010; and whether the asbestos was damaged or disturbed as a result of the recent disturbance; [41197]

(4) in which prisons work has taken place to remove asbestos from the fabric of the building in each of the last 10 years; what the cost of such work was in each case; what work to remove asbestos from each previously identified prison with an identified asbestos presence is planned in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [41198]

(5) what recent steps have been taken at each prison establishment to (a) identify, (b) manage and (c) remove asbestos from the fabric of the buildings; and if he will make a statement. [41199]

**Mr Blunt:** A comprehensive survey of the estate for asbestos took place in 2002-03, and a programme to remove high risk asbestos was implemented following this review.

### Prisons: Visits

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much of the money paid to friends and relatives to assist them in visiting prisoners was provided for subsistence costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [40955]

**Mr Blunt:** Financial assistance has been available to families to visit prisoners since the 1950s when it was run by the National Assistance Board on an individual



needs basis. The formal Assisted Prisons Visits Scheme has been in existence since 1970 and became part of the National Offender Management Service in 2008.

Currently the scheme has two rates of subsistence; a rate where travel time is between five and 10 hours of £2.55 and a rate where travelling takes in excess of 10 hours of £5.10.

In the financial year 2009-10 the total amount paid to friends and relatives under the scheme was £196,000.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the administrative cost of reimbursing relatives of prisoners for prison visits by girocheque in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will estimate the cost of making such payments by BACS. [40956]

**Mr Blunt:** The Assisted Prison Visits Unit made 59,501 girocheque payments in the year 2009-10 at an estimated inclusive cost of £98,000. It is estimated that payment by BACS could have an inclusive cost of £15,000 per year.

A proposal is actively being pursued to upgrade current APVU systems.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts: Public Participation

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of long-term trends in (a) visits to art galleries, (b) visits to museums, (c) attendance at concerts, (d) attendance at musical theatre, (e) attendance at cinema, (f) attendance at theatre and (g) television viewing. [41038]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department assesses attendance trends at cultural events and television watching in the Taking Part survey. The information set out in the following tables is from the August 2010 published reports.

|                                                     | Percentage |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>In the last 12 months, have you been to a...</i> |            |         |         |         |         |
| Film at a cinema or other venue                     | 2005-06    | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|                                                     | 52.3       | 51.9    | 51.7    | 50.2    | 54.7    |
| Play/drama                                          | 22.7       | 21.7    | 22.4    | 21.0    | 21.4    |
| Musical                                             | —          | —       | —       | 22.4    | 23.5    |
| Museum/gallery                                      | 42.3       | 41.5    | 43.5    | 44.5    | 46.7    |

|                                                              | Percentage |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>How many hours a day do you watch TV for, on average?</i> | 2005-06    | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| Never watch TV                                               | 1.4        | 1.4     | 1.5     | 1.8     |
| Less than 1 hour                                             | 7.6        | 7.8     | 7.6     | 7.7     |
| About 1 hour                                                 | 11.8       | 11.9    | 12.3    | 11.6    |
| About 2 hours                                                | 26.8       | 27.2    | 27.4    | 26.6    |
| About 3 hours                                                | 22.5       | 21.7    | 21.2    | 22.7    |
| About 4 hours                                                | 14.7       | 14.6    | 14.6    | 14.2    |
| About 5 hours or more                                        | 14.7       | 14.7    | 14.9    | 14.7    |

|                                                              | Percentage |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>How many hours a day do you watch TV for, on average?</i> | 2005-06    | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| Don't have a TV                                              | 0.4        | 0.5     | 0.5     | 0.5     |

It does not record attendance at concerts, and the data for museums and art galleries cannot be divided between the two categories.

### Broadband: Devon

**Anne Marie Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in Devon with a broadband connection speed of less than 2Mbps. [39256]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Digital Britain report (June 2009) reported that 12-15% of the telephone lines in Devon were unsuitable for broadband at 2Mbps.

Broadband Delivery UK is assessing current broadband provision at community level across the UK in its work to deliver the coalition Government's objective to facilitate universal broadband access of at least 2Mbps and achieve the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

### Broadband: Wales

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what areas of North Wales are included in the pilot area for superfast broadband announced on 10 February 2011. [41162]

**Mr Vaizey [holding answer 15 February 2011]:** The funding announced by the Chancellor will help bring superfast broadband to hard-to-reach areas and extend superfast broadband to Pwllheli and the surrounding areas of North Wales.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40289]

**John Penrose:** The Department has spent the following amounts on carbon offsetting over the last three years.

|         | Companies to whom payment made                       | Amount (£) |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 2009-10 | EDF Trading Ltd 84 Government Carbon Offsetting Fund | 2,882      |
| 2008-09 | Government Carbon Offsetting Fund                    | 3,469      |
| 2007-08 | Government Carbon Offsetting Fund                    | 3,469      |

### Digital Economy Act 2010

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what definition of the term economically sterile traffic his Department uses; and what plans his Department has to remove such traffic from networks. [41338]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department does not have a standard definition of the term "economically sterile traffic", and does not have a policy dedicated to removing such traffic from networks.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to Ofcom of implementation of sections 3 to 16 of the Digital Economy Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [41339]

**Mr Vaizey:** Ofcom is expected to incur one-off costs of £5.8 million, and ongoing costs of £5 million per annum as a result of its responsibilities under the Digital Economy Act. These responsibilities include monitoring and enforcement activities, devising a code of practice, and the establishment of an appeals mechanism.

These estimates can be found in the impact assessment which accompanied the draft statutory instrument on cost-sharing for the initial obligations under the Digital Economy Act.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-sectors/docs/i/10-1164-impact-assessment-cost-sharing-consultation.pdf>

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what reasons his Department has decided to impose 25 per cent. loss of costs for implementation of sections 3 to 16 of the Digital Economy Act 2010 on internet service providers. [41340]

**Mr Vaizey:** Placing part of the costs for the implementation of the initial obligations under the Digital Economy Act on internet service providers means that they have a real incentive to adopt efficient and effective systems for issuing notifications and producing copyright infringement lists.

This apportionment of costs was consulted upon in 2010. The consultation document, along with the individual responses and Government response can be found at

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/online-infringement-of-copyright?cat=closedwithresponse>

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the effects on consumer demand for internet broadband of implementation of sections 3 to 16 of the Digital Economy Act 2010. [41341]

**Mr Vaizey:** The impact assessment which accompanied the Digital Economy Act contains this information. Assuming that internet service providers fully pass down to consumers the annual costs incurred by complying with the initial obligations of the Digital Economy Act, it is estimated that the increased cost to consumers would have a relatively small but permanent effect of reducing demand for broadband connection by between 10,000-40,000.

Background information and supporting evidence for this estimate can be found at

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100511084737/http://interactive.bis.gov.uk/digitalbritain/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Digital-Economy-Act-IAs-final.pdf>

## EU Electronic Communications Framework

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take in respect of implementation of the EU Electronic Communications Framework. [39557]

**Mr Vaizey:** DCMS is currently implementing revisions to the EU Electronic Communications Framework. The deadline for implementation is 25th May 2011.

Following a public consultation which ran between September and December last year officials are currently analysing responses.

We will publish the responses to that consultation and revised impact assessments in March and lay the statutory instruments that will enable legislative change in April.

## Sport: Participation Rates

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the trends in long-term participation rates in each region for (a) football, (b) cricket, (c) rugby, (d) volleyball, (e) netball, (f) swimming and (g) hockey by age and sex. [41239]

**Hugh Robertson:** The detail on participation in these sports is contained in the surveys I referred to in my reply to the hon. Member on 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 11W. In addition, I understand that Sport England has already contacted the hon. Member to offer their help in providing any further specific pieces of information that he would like. I will, of course, answer any questions that he may have in this House, but hope that the Sport England contact will also prove helpful.

## Sport: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 12W, on sport: finance, what proportion of the grant-in-aid received by Sport England in each year from 2000-01 to 2009-10 was spent in each region; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of such grant in aid funding that will be spent in each region in each year from 2010-11 to 2015-16. [41284]

**Hugh Robertson:** A regional breakdown of grant in aid received by Sport England is not held and to commission this information would exceed the disproportionate cost limit.

## Television: Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of children with a television in their bedroom. [40844]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Secretary of State has made no estimate.

## DEFENCE

## Armed Forces: Blood

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps he has taken to ensure the safety and security of blood supplies to members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [40489]

**Mr Robathan:** All the blood components received from NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) are provided under a service level agreement, and as such, the blood supplied to members of the armed forces will be as safe as that given to any other NHS patient. We are not aware of any new recent steps that have been taken with regards to blood safety.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers received a blood transfusion as part of their medical care in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [40490]

**Mr Robathan:** Members of the armed forces receive treatment in a number of NHS hospitals in the UK, as well as in hospitals abroad. This information is not held centrally and it would be impossible to establish how many people have received a blood transfusion as part of their medical care, without interrogating individuals' medical records. This would entail gaining permission to access medically confidential information on an individual basis and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to the use of pathogen reduction technology in health-care provision for armed forces personnel; and if he will make a statement. [40694]

**Mr Robathan:** In common with all new medical techniques and technologies, the Defence Medical Services will consider the merits of pathogen reduction technology as appropriate. New technology will be subject to national best practice and guidance, and only introduced once licensed and demonstrated to be safe and effective. The advisory group on military medicine will advise the surgeon general on the safety and efficacy of new approaches to patient management.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether (a) the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and (b) the Ministry of Defence Hospital Units have considered the use of pathogen reduction technology for use on blood products; and if he will make a statement. [40695]

**Mr Robathan:** The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and the Ministry of Defence Hospital Units are essentially administrative units for the management of Defence Medical Services (DMS) personnel who work within the host NHS trusts and are not responsible for the delivery of clinical care. The care given at each of these sites, including consideration of pathogen reduction technology, is delivered in accordance with the clinical policies, guidelines and governance of the relevant NHS trust.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether staff at the Defence Medical Services establishment have carried out any studies into the use of pathogen reduction technology for use on blood products to treat wounded armed services personnel; and what representations he has received on this issue. [40696]

**Mr Robathan:** On the basis of the work conducted in 2009 by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO, a UK independent non-departmental public body run by the Department of Health) into the reduction of risk of bacterial contamination of platelets, the Defence Medical Services have not conducted any studies into the use of pathogen reduction technology on blood products for the treatment of injured service personnel.

## Astute Class Submarines

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date long-lead items for the Astute class submarines, including reactors, have been purchased or ordered to date. [40529]

**Dr Fox:** The requirement for, and timing of, ordering long lead items varies between submarine class.

The dates that orders were placed for long lead items including reactors for the Astute class submarines are shown in the following table:

| Long lead items | Dates ordered                                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Boat 1-3        | March 1997                                        |
| Boat 4          | December 2003, April 2004, April 2005, March 2007 |
| Boat 5          | April 2005, January 2008, September 2008          |
| Boat 6          | August 2006, March 2010                           |

## Defence: Procurement

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the value of each industrial participation contract involving foreign firms in each of the last 25 years; [40318]

(2) if he will estimate the value of industrial participation by foreign firms in each region of the UK in each of the last 25 years; [40319]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not have industrial participation (IP) contracts. It is the MOD's policy to invite IP proposals from foreign bidders when they are bidding for MOD contracts. However, IP proposals are not considered as part of the evaluation of a tender, either at selection or award. Individual cases of IP within contracts are not readily available, could only be given at disproportionate cost and would be commercially sensitive. However, since 1987 the cumulative value of IP arrangements is around £10 billion. This can be broken down as follows:

|      | Value (£ million) |
|------|-------------------|
| 1987 | 7                 |
| 1989 | 10                |
| 1992 | 187               |



|       | Value (£ million) |
|-------|-------------------|
| 1994  | 1,415             |
| 1995  | 1,370             |
| 1996  | 1,635             |
| 1997  | 268               |
| 1998  | 43                |
| 1999  | 427               |
| 2000  | 860               |
| 2001  | 57                |
| 2002  | 624               |
| 2003  | 215               |
| 2005  | 341               |
| 2006  | 206               |
| 2007  | 1,964             |
| 2008  | 124               |
| 2009  | 227               |
| 2010  | 398               |
| Total | 10,378            |

### Departmental Travel

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on travel in each month since April 2010. [32382]

**Mr Robathan** [holding answer 10 January 2011]: Ministry of Defence monthly expenditure on travel since April 2010 has been as follows:

|                | Expenditure (£ million) |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| April 2010     | 16.0                    |
| May 2010       | 14.5                    |
| June 2010      | 15.2                    |
| July 2010      | 17.2                    |
| August 2010    | 13.9                    |
| September 2010 | 13.0                    |
| October 2010   | 14.8                    |
| November 2010  | 14.2                    |
| December 2010  | 14.9                    |

These figures include, for both service and civilian staff, the cost of travel and accommodation booked centrally, the reimbursement of expenses incurred when using their own vehicle for duty journeys, most rail fares not booked centrally and some car hire costs. The figures also include expenses reimbursed to civilian staff for overnight accommodation, subsistence, taxi, bus and underground fares, parking charges and road tolls, and most of their air fares not booked centrally. Costs of the MOD's white fleet are not included as they are not recorded on a monthly basis; however, we estimate that white fleet contract and fuel costs averaged just under £4 million a month between April and September 2010. The figures also do not include all travel and subsistence costs reimbursed to service personnel, but we are currently improving the accessibility of these in the interests of transparency.

By whatever means staff travel, they must do so in a way that is the most economical in both money and official time.

I apologise for the delay in answering this question.

### Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the reply to the hon. Member for East Lothian of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 747-48W, on ex-servicemen: radiation exposure, on what basis the independent contractor was selected; what the name of the contractor is; what the monetary value of the contract is; on what date the report on health audit is due for delivery; and whether the contract was advertised for competitive tender. [40667]

**Mr Robathan:** Following informal contacts and meetings with a number of academic departments in 2009 and discussions with a range of stakeholders, including the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) identified an option to conduct an independent health needs audit in February 2010.

The MOD statement of requirement detailed the need for external assistance to provide an assessment of the health needs of British nuclear test veterans and in particular to look at:

- their experience and impact of major or significant illness;
- their experiences of NHS and social care services, including access to, and availability of services and the service itself;
- common issues and themes from veterans' experiences, outcomes and recommendations to improve health and care services for nuclear test veterans.

Stakeholders expressed a strong desire to undertake a study quickly. Oxford Healthcare Associates (now known as Miles and Green Associates) were identified as having the relevant levels of expertise and experience to undertake a study of this nature.

Following a business case setting out procurement options, the intention to place a single source contract was advertised in the Defence Contracts Bulletin in 16 July 2010 and the contract was formally let on 26 August 2010.

The value of the contract is £75,000 excluding VAT. Miles and Green are due to present their findings in the summer.

### Overnight Accommodation

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of overnight accommodation in (a) April 2010 and (b) each subsequent month. [31696]

**Mr Robathan** [holding answer 20 December 2010]: Ministry of Defence expenditure on overnight accommodation since April 2010 has been as follows:

|                | Expenditure (£ million) |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| April 2010     | 3.2                     |
| May 2010       | 3.3                     |
| June 2010      | 3.8                     |
| July 2010      | 3.9                     |
| August 2010    | 3.3                     |
| September 2010 | 2.6                     |
| October 2010   | 3.6                     |
| November 2010  | 3.8                     |
| December 2010  | 3.4                     |

These figures include accommodation costs paid centrally for both service and civilian staff and subsistence costs reimbursed to civilian staff for hotel and mess accommodation and for staying with family or friends for the purpose of undertaking official duty commitments. The figures do not include travel and subsistence costs reimbursed to service personnel but we are currently improving the accessibility of these in the interests of transparency.

I apologise for the delay in answering this question.

### Nuclear Submarines

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what type of reactor his Department plans to order for the Trident replacement submarines. [40545]

**Dr Fox:** It is planned that the Vanguard replacement submarine will be powered by a pressurised water reactor, as was the case with previous classes. The precise configuration of the reactor is under consideration as part of the Initial Gate decision.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether steel for the substantial construction of the hull structure of the first boat of the Trident replacement programme will be made as a long-lead purchase prior to main gate. [40547]

**Dr Fox:** Yes. The specialist high strength steel needed for the hull structure for the first boat is included as a long-lead item in the Initial Gate Business Case for the programme. This is due to the length of time needed for the mill run, that means that the order must be placed prior to Main Gate in order not to put at risk the in-service date.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which work streams the £750 million of savings to the public purse arising from the Trident replacement programme identified in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will be made. [40531]

**Dr Fox:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review identified a total of £1.2 billion of savings and £2 billion of deferrals over the next 10 years. These savings are attributable to submarine production, the nuclear warhead, supporting infrastructure and improved efficiency at the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date he expects it will be necessary to reach a decision on the replacement or refurbishing of the UK nuclear warhead. [40540]

**Dr Fox:** As the Prime Minister informed the House on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-826, the strategic defence and security review announced the deferral of the decision to replace or refurbish the UK nuclear warhead until the next Parliament.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department has agreed for work on the Trident replacement concept phase to

date; and with which companies such contracts have been agreed. [40542]

**Dr Fox:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 579W, to the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert).

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has allocated to spend on the Trident replacement programme in each year between 2010-11 and 2015-16. [40543]

**Dr Fox:** Approximately £330 million was allocated to the programme to replace the Vanguard submarine for the financial year 2010-11. This includes expenditure on the Common Missile Compartment and on nuclear propulsion. The Initial Gate Business Case for the assessment phase of the programme to replace the Trident submarines is currently being reviewed.

However, we do not routinely publish figures for anticipated annual project expenditure; as to do so would prejudice commercial interests. Moreover, in line with standard procedures, the programme will be subject to the normal Ministry of Defence annual planning round process.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to seek Parliamentary approval for long-lead orders prior to the Trident replacement Main Gate decision. [40549]

**Dr Fox:** I have no such plans. It is not normal practice to seek parliamentary approval for such matters. The Initial Gate approval is subject to the normal Ministry of Defence and Treasury process for category A programmes.

### Trident Missiles

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he had discussions with his US counterpart prior to the sharing of information with the Russian Federation on UK-designated Trident D5 missiles; [40538]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects of the sharing of information between the US and Russia on UK-designated Trident D5 missiles on the operational status of the UK's Trident nuclear weapon system. [40539]

**Dr Fox:** Officials from the Ministry of Defence have regular discussions with US authorities on a range of Defence issues. Where discussions relate to the D5 Trident missiles they take place mainly under the auspices of the 1963 Polaris Sales Agreement (as amended for Trident).

The US holds a stockpile of Trident D5 missiles from which the UK has purchased title to a number but these are unspecified in the stockpile. There are therefore no UK-designated missiles.

Under the terms of the bilateral new strategic arms reduction treaty (New START) limited information is shared between the US and Russia. Procedures for

transferring information have been in place since the 1991 START treaty and have been carried forward and updated for New START. Such information exchange between the US and Russia will have no detrimental effect on the operational status of the independent UK deterrent.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Atos Origin

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to his Department is of meeting its contractual obligations to Atos Origin in each year of that contract. [37700]

**Chris Grayling:** The total cost of the DWP Medical Services contract with Atos Healthcare, a division of Atos Origin, is in the region of £100 million per annum. This estimate covers the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits and also includes relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

Since the commencement of the current contract, the spend with Atos Healthcare is shown in the following table.

|                                | £ million |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 September 2005 to March 2006 | 73.3      |
| 2006-07                        | 60.2      |
| 2007-08                        | 70.2      |
| 2008-09                        | 111.8     |
| 2009-10                        | 99.1      |

The cost incurred in 2010-11 to 30 November 2010 was £69.6 million.

### Child Maintenance

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to extend recognition of shared care parenting in the arrangement for the payment of child maintenance. [39771]

**Maria Miller:** The Government have recently published a consultation document—"Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance";

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf>

The Government want to encourage parents to reach family-based arrangements for child maintenance which will facilitate co-parenting and ongoing involvement of both parents in their children's lives. If parents can come to an agreement about shared care we would hope that they could also make a family-based arrangement suitable to both parties.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) is currently reviewing shared care arrangements as it develops plans to move to the new child maintenance system in 2012.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on furniture since May 2010. [38534]

**Chris Grayling:** Since May 2010 the Department spent a total of £3.6 million on furniture; £3.3 million of which was supplied for a programme of works across the Jobcentre Plus network in response to the economic downturn.

The Department signed a 20 year PFI contract with Telereal Trillium in 1998 for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. The £3.6 million was for furniture not included within the contract price.

The total spend on furniture in 2009-10 was £8 million of which £7.4 million was in response to the economic downturn. The figure is net of a £3.5 million discount, which was negotiated with Telereal Trillium in delivering the programme of works in response to the economic downturn.

The scope of the services provided by Telereal Trillium include the provision of all accommodation in over 1,000 buildings and services, which includes building maintenance, life cycle works, energy/utilities management and environment, internal reorganisation, portage, security, health and safety, furniture and equipment, catering/security facilities and equipment, catering, waste management, internal and external cleaning, room booking service, and landscape maintenance.

All the figures include the costs of moving and installing furniture and other items, such as electrical and white goods. These costs can be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost.

### Dichloromethane

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment has been made of the risks to human health and safety from the use of products containing dichloromethane for (a) industrial or manufacturing purposes and (b) non-industrial and domestic purposes; and if he will make a statement; [40217]

(2) whether his Department is considering the merits of seeking a derogation from EU restrictions on the use of the chemical dichloromethane; and if he will make a statement. [40580]

**Chris Grayling:** Dichloromethane is a widely-used solvent, which can have narcotic effects at high concentrations.

Between 1989 and 2007, 18 deaths and 56 non-fatal injuries relating to use of paint strippers containing this solvent were registered across Europe. There is now an EU-wide ban under the REACH regulation on the placing on the market of paint strippers containing this substance for consumers or untrained professionals which came into effect from 6 December 2010.

In the UK the rate of injury from the use of these paint strippers is very low. The history of accidents involving this substance shows only five fatal accidents in 18 years, and an average of just over one other injury a year. Recognising that these paint strippers can be



used safely, and their importance for UK businesses, the Government intend to take advantage of a derogation permitted in the ban to allow for the continued sale and use of these paint strippers for trained professionals.

#### Disability Living Allowance

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of extending the higher rate disability living allowance component to people in employment aged 65 and over.

[40313]

**Maria Miller:** The Government have no plans to extend the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to people in employment aged 65 and over.

It is normal for pension and benefit schemes to contain different provisions for people at different stages of their lives. Disability living allowance and its proposed replacement—personal independence payment—are intended to help people who have the financial disadvantage of being disabled early, or relatively early, in life and have had less opportunity to work, earn and save.

There is a wide range of support available to disabled people over the age of 65 including state pension, pension credit and attendance allowance. In addition, Access to Work scheme is also available to those aged 65 and over and can pay towards the equipment needed at work, adapting premises to meet needs, a support worker, and it can also pay towards the cost of getting to work for people who cannot use public transport.

**Jake Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Rossendale and Darwen constituency receive disability living allowance; and what the cost to the public purse was of such payments in the last 12 months.

[40421]

**Maria Miller:** The latest available 12 months is the 2009-10 financial year. This information is shown in the following table.

| Great Britain, 2009/10—Rossendale and Darwen |                    |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                              | Number (£ million) |
| Caseload (thousand)                          | 6.3                |
| Expenditure (£ million)                      | 22.8               |

Source:

DWP statistical and accounting data

Parliamentary constituency expenditure data can be found at the following URL:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/pc\\_expenditure.xls](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/pc_expenditure.xls)

Further benefit expenditure data can be found at the following URL:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure>

#### Disability Living Allowance: Cancer

**Dame Anne Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people with cancer who are eligible for disability living allowance who will be ineligible for the personal independence payment.

[39125]

**Maria Miller:** We are currently consulting on the reform of disability living allowance with the key proposal of a new benefit, to be known as personal independence payment, which will be introduced from 2013. The Department has made no such estimate because disability living allowance and its successor are designed to recognise the extra costs associated with disability and are not based on diagnoses or condition.

#### Employment: Asylum

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what measures he is taking to increase the rate of employment of refugees;

[41096]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the Work programme's prime contractors in each lot provide appropriate support to refugee customers;

[41097]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that refugees on active benefits receive appropriate pre-employment support;

[41098]

(4) whether he has assessed the effect on the employment prospects of refugee customers of excluding refugees from the categories of customer eligible for early access onto the Work programme at the discretion of Jobcentre Plus;

[41164]

(5) for what reason refugees are not included in the categories of customer eligible for early access onto the Work programme at the discretion of Jobcentre Plus listed in the invitation to tender for the Work programme;

[41165]

(6) what the employment outcomes were for refugee customers who gained early access onto Flexible New Deal and New Deal programmes in 2008 and 2009;

[41166]

(7) how many refugee customers gained early access onto Flexible New Deal and New Deal programmes between 2008 and 2010;

[41167]

(8) what consideration he gave to continuing the eligibility of refugee customers for early access when the Work programme starts.

[41168]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government are radically reforming the welfare to work system to provide an integrated programme of personalised help for people who are out of work. The support package includes enhancement of the provision offered by Jobcentre Plus, an improved skills offer through the Get Britain Working measures and tailored support via the Work programme. This flexible system will offer the right support at the right time to all people on benefits, including refugees.

For the majority of refugees the flexible, personalised services that Jobcentre Plus will offer, alongside the Get Britain Working measures, will meet their needs.

For those with significant disadvantages, early entry to the Work programme may be appropriate. Advisers will have the discretion to refer more vulnerable customers to the Work programme where it is clear that they would benefit from the type of assistance provided.

The term refugee covers a broad spectrum of individuals with a wide range of differing needs. I therefore do not believe it would be appropriate to refer all refugees to the Work programme more quickly than other people receiving benefit.

We have asked bidders for the Work programme contracts, without being prescriptive, to develop innovative models of support. These must be designed to be flexible and specifically tailored to meet the needs of individual customers and the local area. As part of the evaluation of process, the Department will consider bidders' ability to meet the diverse needs of different customers and customer groups.

I am unable to provide the statistical information requested in relation to the position of refugees under previous programmes such as New Deal and Flexible New Deal. This information was not systematically collected at the time and cannot be obtained retrospectively.

### Housing Benefit

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 24 January 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 778, on the Housing Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2010, when he expects to commission the independent review into housing benefit; whom he expects to undertake the review; what method he plans to use to identify the review team; when he expects the review to report; and if he will make a statement. [39304]

**Steve Webb:** The Department is in the process of a procurement exercise with leading research organisations for the evaluation and working on the final specification of the project.

We will work to the Government Social Research Code to commission a team of independent, external researchers who will undertake the review and fieldwork elements of the project by early April.

The Department anticipates emerging findings of the implementation of the new measures will be available by the spring of 2012. Interim findings will be available by the summer of 2012. Draft final findings will be available by the winter of 2012-13.

### Housing Benefit: Greater London

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many private rented homes in the (a) City of London, (b) London borough of Camden and (c) London borough of Brent he estimates will be affordable to housing benefit recipients following the implementation of his reforms to housing benefit. [38420]

**Steve Webb:** The number of affordable properties will depend upon the total number of properties available to rent in each area, for which forecasts are not available, and the rent-setting decisions of landlords.

### Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

**Mr Causby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in funding to the Health and Safety Executive on the effective operation of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. [39646]

**Chris Grayling:** There have been no changes to the operation of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) as a result of the spending review.

The proposed change, about which HSE is currently consulting, was recommended in the report by Lord Young, "Common Sense, Common Safety". This report seeks to focus regulations where they are needed most to create a new system that is proportionate and not bureaucratic. Actions to implement the recommendations are being taken forward across Government in line with the timetable set out in his report.

Incidents reported under the regulations are selected for investigation using HSE's published RIDDOR incident selection criteria. There has been no change to these criteria although HSE is considering the modalities for notification.

Enforcement action in the event of an employer or other duty holder failing to report a death, injury, dangerous occurrence or case of an occupational disease is taken in accordance with its enforcement policy statement (EPS). Again there has been no change to this.

**Mr Causby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation he has undertaken on changes to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. [39647]

**Chris Grayling:** A formal, statutory consultation was launched by HSE on 31 January 2011 seeking views on the proposed amendment to regulation 3(2) of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). The consultation closes on 9 May 2011. A copy of the consultation document can be viewed at

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd233.htm>

### Jobcentres

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he next plans to visit the jobcentre which serves Thirsk, Malton and Filey constituency; and if he will make a statement. [39836]

**Chris Grayling:** Since May 2010, the Department's ministerial team has visited numerous constituencies and jobcentres across the UK.

The Department's ministerial team currently have no plans to visit the Thirsk Malton and Filey constituency, however, should any Ministers do so, they will look to visit the jobcentre there.

### Lone Parents: Earnings

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to the merits of introducing an increased earnings disregard for lone parents prior to implementation of other aspects of his universal credit proposals. [39752]

**Chris Grayling:** The increased earnings disregards are an intrinsic part of the new universal credit and designed, alongside a single taper, to improve the incentives to enter work.

Until the universal credit is introduced lone parents will greatly benefit from the comprehensive, personalised support provided by Jobcentre Plus and the new Work programme which will provide a flexible, personalised approach to helping people back into work, and will aim to continue supporting people after they have entered work.

#### Pensions: Females

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of women in Newport East constituency who will be affected by the change in timetable for the equalisation of the state pension age. [41229]

**Steve Webb:** This information is not available.

On the basis of the mid-2009 Office for National Statistics population estimates, we estimate that around 1,500 women in the Newport local authority area could be affected by the change in the equalisation of the state pension age.

#### Poverty: Families

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with service users to inform the development of universal credit proposals; and to what extent those proposals take into account the needs of low-income families. [39758]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department is committed to involving customers at every stage of the design and delivery of universal credit. We have an ongoing programme of customer insight work and have already held a number of focus groups with a broad range of benefit and tax credit customers (who will be the service users of universal credit), including low-income families.

The ongoing programme of user-centred design activity, which is being conducted jointly with customers, means that the Department will continue to ensure that the delivery of universal credit is designed around specific customer needs.

The research findings have not been published, as the analysis is not yet complete. They are also covered by the policy advice exemption from publication.

#### Social Fund: City of Chester

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund (a) budgeting loans, (b) crisis loans and (c) community care grants for the purpose of buying television sets over the value of (i) £500 and (ii) £1,000 there were in (A) City of Chester constituency and (B) the UK in each of the last five years. [40219]

**Steve Webb:** Firstly, part of the question refers to figures for the whole of the UK—information regarding the discretionary social fund for Northern Ireland is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson).

In the case of budgeting loans, applicants are asked to tick which of seven categories they need help for, but are not asked to specify the items they require. Television

sets would come under the category 'to buy furniture or household equipment'. Data are not available on the number of awards for each category.

The number of crisis loans or community care grants initially awarded for the purpose of buying television sets over the value of (i) £500 or (ii) £1,000 in (A) City of Chester constituency or (B) Great Britain in each of the financial years 2005-06 to 2009-10 was extremely low, being recorded as nil or negligible.

#### Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, the information given does not include applications which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the social fund computer system by the end of the relevant financial year.

2. Data are available for initial awards only. No information is available on the number of awards of the type described which were made after review.

3. Exact numbers have not been given for data protection reasons. 'Nil or negligible' means less than five.

#### Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

#### Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on each type of welfare and benefits payment to people with an income of (a) £6,475 to £7,475, (b) £7,476 to £8,475, (c) £8,476 to £9,475 and (d) £9,476 to £10,000 on each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [39051]

**Maria Miller:** Information is not available for all welfare and benefits by income level. The following table shows the available data on expenditure on benefits in payment to people in households with gross unequivalised annual incomes within the bands requested. Estimates are derived from the family resources survey and are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain income bands and statistical variation across the years. Use of survey data means that information is only available for the benefits shown.

Table 1: Benefit expenditure (in millions) by unequivalised annual gross income band, United Kingdom, 2004-05 to 2006-07

| Benefit                     | £6,476<br>to<br>£7,475 | £7,476<br>to<br>£8,475 | £8,476<br>to<br>£9,475 | £9,476<br>to<br>£10,000 | Total<br>(three<br>year<br>average) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Disability living allowance | 100                    | 150                    | 200                    | 150                     | 9,361                               |
| Child benefit               | 50                     | 50                     | 100                    | 50                      | 9,840                               |
| State retirement pension    | 1,800                  | 2,050                  | 2,650                  | 1,650                   | 55,730                              |
| Pension credit              | 300                    | 300                    | 500                    | 300                     | 6,975                               |
| Attendance allowance        | 50                     | 50                     | 100                    | 100                     | 4,253                               |
| Incapacity benefit          | 250                    | 300                    | 300                    | 100                     | 7,205                               |



Table 1: Benefit expenditure (in millions) by unequivalised annual gross income band, United Kingdom, 2004-05 to 2006-07

| Benefit              | £6,476<br>to<br>£7,475 | £7,476<br>to<br>£8,475 | £8,476<br>to<br>£9,475 | £9,476<br>to<br>£10,000 | Total<br>(three<br>year<br>average) |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Income support       | 250                    | 350                    | 450                    | 300                     | 10,165                              |
| Winter fuel payments | 100                    | 100                    | 100                    | 50                      | 2,159                               |
| Council tax benefit  | 250                    | 250                    | 300                    | 200                     | 4,081                               |
| Housing benefit      | 600                    | 800                    | 1,200                  | 750                     | 15,179                              |
| Jobseekers allowance | 100                    | 100                    | 50                     | 50                      | 2,453                               |

Table 2: Benefit expenditure (in millions) by unequivalised annual gross income band, United Kingdom, 2005-06 to 2007-08

| Benefit                     | £6,476<br>to<br>£7,475 | £7,476<br>to<br>£8,475 | £8,476<br>to<br>£9,475 | £9,476<br>to<br>£10,000 | Total<br>(three<br>year<br>average) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Disability living allowance | 100                    | 150                    | 200                    | 100                     | 9,745                               |
| Child benefit               | 50                     | 50                     | 50                     | 50                      | 10,176                              |
| State retirement pension    | 1,550                  | 1,950                  | 2,350                  | 1,550                   | 57,363                              |
| Pension credit              | 350                    | 250                    | 400                    | 300                     | 7,317                               |
| Attendance allowance        | 50                     | 50                     | 100                    | 50                      | 4,413                               |
| Incapacity benefit          | 250                    | 300                    | 250                    | 100                     | 7,015                               |
| Income support              | 250                    | 300                    | 350                    | 300                     | 9,509                               |
| Winter fuel payments        | 100                    | 100                    | 100                    | 50                      | 2,141                               |
| Council tax benefit         | 250                    | 250                    | 250                    | 200                     | 4,142                               |
| Housing benefit             | 550                    | 700                    | 1,000                  | 750                     | 15,689                              |
| Jobseekers allowance        | 100                    | 100                    | 50                     | 50                      | 2,455                               |

Table 3: Benefit expenditure (in millions) by unequivalised annual gross income band, United Kingdom, 2006-07 to 2008-09

| Benefit                     | £6,476<br>to<br>£7,475 | £7,476<br>to<br>£8,475 | £8,476<br>to<br>£9,475 | £9,476<br>to<br>£10,000 | Total<br>(three<br>year<br>average) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Disability living allowance | 50                     | 150                    | 200                    | 100                     | 10,114                              |
| Child benefit               | 50                     | 50                     | 50                     | 50                      | 10,674                              |
| State retirement pension    | 1,300                  | 1,850                  | 2,050                  | 1,300                   | 59,168                              |
| Pension credit              | 250                    | 300                    | 350                    | 250                     | 7,574                               |
| Attendance allowance        | 50                     | 50                     | 100                    | 50                      | 4,563                               |
| Incapacity benefit          | 200                    | 250                    | 200                    | 150                     | 6,787                               |
| Income support              | 200                    | 300                    | 300                    | 200                     | 9,063                               |
| Winter fuel payments        | 50                     | 100                    | 100                    | 50                      | 2,320                               |

Table 3: Benefit expenditure (in millions) by unequivalised annual gross income band, United Kingdom, 2006-07 to 2008-09

| Benefit              | £6,476<br>to<br>£7,475 | £7,476<br>to<br>£8,475 | £8,476<br>to<br>£9,475 | £9,476<br>to<br>£10,000 | Total<br>(three<br>year<br>average) |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Council tax benefit  | 200                    | 250                    | 250                    | 150                     | 4,179                               |
| Housing benefit      | 550                    | 650                    | 850                    | 600                     | 16,319                              |
| Jobseekers allowance | 100                    | 100                    | 50                     | 50                      | 2,574                               |

**Notes:**

1. Estimates are derived from the family resources survey and are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain income bands and statistical variation across the years.
2. All amounts are in 2008-09 prices. Information covers Great Britain only.
3. Shares of benefit expenditure by income band according to the family resources survey have been applied to administrative data to derive a split by income band. Administrative data totals are available to the nearest million pounds, while information based on survey data is presented rounded to the nearest £50 million.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series. Note, however, that unlike most incomes used in the 'Households Below Average Income' publication, incomes here are gross and unequivalised.
5. The Family Resources Survey is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits. This methodology assumes that this undercount is spread proportionally across income bands. For example, if 30% of expenditure is in a certain income band, this assumes 30% of any undercount is also in that income band. This assumption may not be justified here given the relationship between overall income and reporting of benefit income.
6. Unequivalised gross incomes have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling in order to assign all incomes to bands.

The relatively small proportion of benefit expenditure directed at the low income bands specified is mainly due to three reasons; firstly, there is a low proportion of the population overall with gross unequivalised annual incomes less than £10,000; secondly, a major factor causing very low incomes is non take-up of benefits and tax credits; and thirdly, evidence suggests that the family resources survey has an undercount in terms of recording benefit receipt compared to administrative totals.

**Work Capability Assessment: Carmarthen**

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of claimants of employment and support allowance in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency have been found capable of work as a result of a work capability assessment since May 2005; [34378]

(2) what proportion of residents of Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency who appealed against work capability assessments were successful since May 2005; [34379]

(3) how many appeals against the outcomes of work capability assessments were made in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency in each of the last five years; and how many such appeals were successful. [34380]

**Chris Grayling:** Since the above questions all relate to the work capability assessment (WCA) for employment and support allowance (ESA) in the same geographical areas, a single response addressing all the questions is given as follows.

ESA was introduced in October 2008. Information on WCAs held, their outcomes and subsequent appeals is not available at the constituency level. Figures have therefore been provided for the Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire local authority (LA) areas, which cover the Carmarthen West and Pembrokeshire constituency.

The number of fit for work decisions given at initial WCA in Carmarthenshire LA between October 2008 and February 2010, the latest data available, is 1,540 or 42% of all new ESA claims received. In Pembrokeshire LA there were 680 fit for work decisions, representing 36% of all new ESA claims received in the same period.

Of claims received between October 2008 and August 2009 in Carmarthenshire, that were found fit for work at initial WCA, 430 have appealed the WCA decision and had their appeal heard by July 2010. Of these appeals 160 or 38% found in favour of the appellant. For Pembrokeshire, there have been 140 appeals, of which 20 or 15% found in favour of the appellant.

The above data are taken from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare and appeals data sourced from the Tribunals Service.

All case load figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages to the nearest percentage point.

#### FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

##### Burundi: Politics and Government

**Pauline Latham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to support post-conflict reconstruction in Burundi, with particular reference to providing livelihoods for returning reintegrated refugees.

[41029]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK has provided strong political and programmatic support to post-conflict reconstruction and the return of refugees in Burundi since the end of the civil war in 2003.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has worked closely with the international community to support Burundi in its return to stability. Through regular discussions in the UN Security Council, in particular around the regular renewal of the mandate of the UN mission in Burundi, and through active participation in the Peace Building Commission, the UK has promoted the protection of the human rights of vulnerable citizens, including returnees, and emphasised the importance of instituting an effective transitional justice mechanism. Our offices in Burundi and our ambassador based in Kigali have also encouraged the Government of Burundi to take the steps that we believe are essential in enabling Burundi to complete its post-conflict recovery. The Anglican Archbishop of Burundi recently praised the support of the British Government for their engagement.

##### Departmental Flags

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department issues on flying the EU flag from (a) embassies, (b) high commissions and (c) other Government buildings overseas.

[40298]

**Mr Lidington:** The British flag has precedence. In all cases where it is deployed, the European flag is displayed alongside, not instead of, the British Diplomatic, Consular or (in Commonwealth countries) Union flag. Our Representation to the EU in Brussels displays the European flag at all times, as do all our EU partners on their buildings.

On Europe day (9 May), posts in EU and EU-applicant countries display the European flag. Other posts may also display the European flag on Europe day where this is normal local practice.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the provisions of any EU treaty govern the flying of EU flags from Government buildings overseas; and if he will make a statement.

[40299]

**Mr Lidington:** There is no specific legal base in either the treaty on European Union or the treaty on the functioning of the European Union which governs the flying of an EU flag from Government buildings overseas. The UK's representation to the EU in Brussels displays the European flag at all times, as do all our EU partners on their buildings. On Europe day (9 May), posts in EU and EU-applicant countries display the European flag. Other posts may also display the European flag on Europe day where this is normal local practice. In all cases, the European flag is displayed alongside, not instead of, the British Diplomatic, Consular or (in Commonwealth countries) Union flag, with the British flag having precedence.

##### Egypt: Elections

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each unclassified item of briefing given to Ministers on the outcome of the 2010 parliamentary elections in Egypt.

[40131]

**Mr Hague:** Ministers received no briefing at unclassified level following the outcome of the 2010 parliamentary elections in Egypt.

During parliamentary elections in Egypt in November and December, domestic observers, civil society organisations and election participants raised serious concerns about arrangements in the run-up to and during the elections. These included refusal of access for international monitors, lack of access in many instances for independent national monitors and candidate representatives to key parts of the voting and counting process and reports of attempts to limit media comment on the elections. In a number of cases, reported voting irregularities and the harassment and arrest of opposition candidates and their supporters amounted to serious interference in the electoral process. This called into question the credibility of some of the results. The majority of the opposition parties and candidates refused to participate in the second round of elections, citing these issues. We strongly encouraged the Egyptian authorities to address those concerns. After the elections the UK and EU highlighted in public and in private irregularities in the electoral process including the absence of independent monitors and limits to press freedom.

The Government worked to support free and fair parliamentary elections in 2010. We called on the Egyptian Government to amend legislation to ensure full compatibility with Egypt's international obligations in this regard and to permit international observers to visit Egypt during the election periods.

The EU also supported a coalition of Egyptian civil society organisations to monitor the presidential and parliamentary elections. These non-governmental organisations are also working to raise Egyptian voter awareness towards their political rights, train observers to be able effectively to monitor the elections, and to improve media coverage of the electoral campaigns along internationally recognised professional and ethical standards. Our embassy is also supporting a number of smaller projects with Egyptian civil society to assist their capacity building for the electoral process.

#### Egypt: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact his Department has had with representatives of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [40211]

**Mr Hague:** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear, we continue to press the Egyptian Government to give opposition groups a real role in the reform process, through a genuinely broad-based dialogue. The Egyptian Government has begun that Dialogue and as part of it, has met the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt who are an important part of Egypt's national political mosaic.

Our embassy in Cairo maintains working level contacts with many government and opposition figures, including the Muslim Brotherhood. We have been in contact with members of the Muslim Brotherhood in their positions as elected representatives in the Egyptian parliament. We will continue to have contacts with those members of the Muslim Brotherhood who are, or who are likely to be, part of the political dialogue process in Egypt and who have agreed to respect and work within that process.

#### Embassies: Official Hospitality

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure was incurred for hospitality for the British embassy or high commission in (a) Albania, (b) Macedonia, (c) Serbia, (d) Mozambique and (e) Angola in the financial year 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [37954]

**Alistair Burt:** In the financial year 2009-10 our British embassies and high commissions in the countries listed as follows incurred the following expenditure for hospitality:

|            | £      | Percentage of post expenditure |
|------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Albania    | 4,199  | 0.8                            |
| Macedonia  | 15,458 | 1.7                            |
| Serbia     | 43,278 | 1.2                            |
| Mozambique | 11,002 | 1.1                            |
| Angola     | 22,827 | 1.6                            |

This expenditure was spent on a wide range of activities designed to establish and cultivate contacts and included meetings and events hosted for political and business delegations (including those in support of UK Trade and Industry) abroad, to promote and defend wider British interests. All expenditure on official hospitality is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

#### European Union Bill

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with hon. Members on the European Union Bill. [40124]

**Mr Hague:** Ministers have met or otherwise engaged with a number of hon. Members from all political parties, on a range of issues relating to the EU Bill both prior to introduction and during Parliament's consideration of the Bill. This is consistent with the normal course of business, and as the Bill proceeds through Parliament, Ministers will continue to engage with hon. Members in this way.

#### North Africa and Middle East: British Nationals

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to facilitate the safety of UK nationals in (a) Tunisia, (b) Egypt, (c) Jordan and (d) Yemen. [40681]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) produces travel advice for all countries which is kept under constant review. This includes information for British nationals on travel safety and avoiding problem situations. FCO travel advice is available on the FCO website as well as the FCO British Abroad Facebook and Twitter sites. The FCO has a strong relationship with around 400 travel industry partners as part of the ongoing Know Before You Go campaign to help British nationals stay safe and healthy abroad.

During the recent crisis in Tunisia, in response to the deteriorating situation, the FCO changed the travel advice on 13 January 2011 to advise against all but essential travel to Tunisia. The FCO worked closely with travel industry partners to enable British nationals wanting to leave the country in line with our travel advice to do so safely. The advice against all but essential travel to Tunisia was removed on 4 February 2011, in line with an improving security situation on the ground. In response to the unrest in Egypt, the FCO advises against all but essential travel to Cairo, Alexandria, Suez and Luxor. In addition, the FCO organised two government-funded charter flights for British nationals wanting to leave Cairo, on 3 and 5 February 2011. The FCO sent additional staff to both Tunisia and Egypt to reinforce our embassies on the ground. We continue to monitor the situation in Jordan and Yemen. There are currently no travel restrictions in place in Jordan. We currently advise against all but essential travel to Yemen, and against all travel to the Governorate of Sa'ada.



### Sudan: Referendums

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he has provided to Sudan following the recent referendum in that country. [41030]

**Alistair Burt:** We are committed to providing long term support to the people of north and south Sudan. We are providing significant humanitarian and development funding this year to improve governance, address insecurity and provide basic services. The Government are currently conducting a review of all our bilateral and multilateral aid, including our humanitarian emergency response.

### Trade Promotion

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the then Foreign Secretary led trade delegations to (a) Brazil, (b) Russia, (c) India and (d) China between May 2005 and May 2010. [38790]

**Alistair Burt:** The then Foreign Secretary, the right hon. Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett), visited China in May 2007 accompanied by a trade delegation.

There were no Foreign Secretary-led trade delegations to Brazil, Russia or India between May 2005 and May 2010.

### Tunisia: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he first received reports of unrest in Tunisia. [40210]

**Mr Hague:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister responsible for North Africa and I receive regular reports from both our embassies in the region and officials here in London. In the case of Tunisia, our embassy in Tunis reported in December 2010 on the political developments that formed the backdrop to the unrest and thereafter provided regular updates as the unrest escalated.

### PRIME MINISTER

#### Children's Centres

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the role of Sure Start centres in developing the big society. [40988]

**The Prime Minister:** The Government have ensured that there is enough money in the system to maintain the network of Sure Start children's centres.

The Government are working with local authorities to enable voluntary and community sector organisations with a track record of supporting families to become more involved with running and delivering services within children's centres.

The Localism Bill is introducing a right for local organisations and local authority employees to challenge local authorities to contract out services. Where services are contracted out, community groups, including parents and other local people, can apply to run children's centres, or services within centres, themselves.

### General Practitioners

**John Healey:** To ask the Prime Minister what the attendance list was for the 10 Downing street event for GP pathfinders held on 26 January 2011; and with which organisations each attendee is affiliated. [41439]

**The Prime Minister:** Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

### TREASURY

#### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Kate Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the (a) total salary cost and (b) average salary is of staff employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department. [34534]

**Justine Greening:** There are currently 76 staff employed on fixed-term contracts in the Treasury. The total of the basic salaries of those staff is £2,684,506, an average of £35,322 per fixed-term employee.

#### EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27502]

**Mr Hoban:** The EU directives pending transposition into domestic legislation as of 14 January 2011 on which HM Treasury officials were engaged are set out in the following table. Estimates made by this Department of the gross transitional cost to the UK of their transposition (i.e. including costs likely to be incurred by private industry) are shown. No separate estimates of HM Treasury's administrative costs have been made. These estimates do not take account of any benefits that might accrue to the UK.

#### Title of legislation

#### Estimated costs

Electronic Money Directive 2009/110/EC

Estimated cost to the UK of implementation is £1 million.

Capital Requirements 2010/76/EU

Transposition has been partially completed; the estimated cost to the UK of implementation of the remaining parts is nil/marginal.

| Title of legislation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Estimated costs                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Directive 2010/78/EU amending Directives 98/26/EC, 2002/87/EC, 2003/6/EC, 2003/41/EC, 2003/71/EC, 2004/39/EC, 2004/109/EC, 2005/60/EC, 2006/48/EC, 2006/49/EC and 2009/65/EC in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority), the European Supervisory Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority) and the European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority) | The estimated cost to the UK is nil/marginal (the only anticipated costs will be HM Treasury and Financial Services Authority staff costs). |
| European Directive 2010/73/EU (amendments to EU Prospectus Directive)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | At pre-consultation stage: no estimate has yet been made of the total cost of implementation of the Amending Directive.<br>£50 million      |
| Directive 2009/65/EC Recast Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities (UCITS IV) Directive 2009                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                             |
| Directive 2009/128/EC on the taking-up and pursuit of the business of insurance and reinsurance (Solvency II)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Implementing measures are not yet agreed and so no estimate is currently available.                                                         |

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has assessed the merits of allowing county and metropolitan councils to collect and retain fuel duty locally; and if he will make a statement. [41288]

**Justine Greening:** Fuel duty is collected directly from fuel producers and therefore does not distinguish between different fuel consumers or geographic areas. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review.

### Media Ownership

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings in an official capacity (a) he (b) Ministers and (c) officials in his Department have had with (i) Rupert Murdoch, (ii) James Murdoch, (iii) Rebekah Wade, (iv) individuals representing News International, (v) individuals representing News Corporation and (vi) individuals representing BSkyB since 4 November 2010. [34116]

**Justine Greening:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and implementation.

The Treasury publishes a list of ministerial meetings with external organisations, available at:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister\\_hospitality.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm)

### Public Bodies: Accountancy

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department issues to (a) Ofcom and (b) other arm's length bodies on ensuring that their accounting practices are in line with those required of (i) Government Departments and (ii) the National Audit Office. [40792]

**Danny Alexander** [holding answer 14 February 2011]: Ofcom is a public corporation. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport issue an Accounts Direction (to date administered by BIS, but which now passes to DCMS) that determines the accounting practice to be followed. As a Public Corporation, Ofcom accounts under the Companies Act and follows International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in line with the Government sector.

Arm's length bodies such as non-departmental public bodies, executive agencies and trading funds (along with Government Departments) follow the Government Financial Manual (FReM). Accounts Directions for NDPBs are issued by their Secretary of State in line with their legislation, normally with the agreement of the Treasury. HM Treasury issues the Accounts Directions for Departments and agencies (under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000) and trading funds (under The Government Trading Funds Act 1973).

The NAO carry out their audits based on the requirements of the Accounts Directions.

### Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 578W, on tax collection: debts, for what reason HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has published in the *Official Journal* of the European Community an invitation to tender for debt collection services which stipulates that during the lifetime of the agreement clients may wish to expand on core services and use supplementary services to ensure that debt recovery is maximised; and if he will assess the implications of this notice for HMRC policy on referring cases to private sector debt collection agencies for door-to-door visits. [40674]

**Mr Gauke:** The advertisement to which the hon. Member refers relates to a procurement being conducted under the EU Open procedure in respect of a cross government framework contract and was published in the OJEU on 28 January 2011. This can be viewed at:

<http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NQTICE:30619-2011:TEXT:EN:HTML&src=0>

As the advertisement makes clear the intention is to procure, through a single framework contract, a comprehensive range of debt collection agency services that would then be available to HMRC, other Government Departments and public bodies to draw upon should the need arise.

The current procurement exercise does not alter the position with regard to door-to-door visits by HMRC staff that I set out in my answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 578W.

**Taxation: Aviation**

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on aviation taxation regimes in (a) EU member states and (b) G20 countries; and if he will make a statement. [41260]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter) on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 83W.

**Taxation: Financial Services**

**Mr Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the likely yield to the Exchequer of a tax on financial trades (a) internationally and (b) within the UK alone for clearing house automated payments system transactions at a rate of (i) 1 per cent., (ii) 0.1 per cent., (iii) 0.01 per cent. and (iv) 0.001 per cent. [39955]

**Mr Hoban:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1254W, to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock).

**VAT: Alcoholic Drinks**

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether EU member states may operate differential value added tax rates on the sale of alcohol through the on-trade and the off-trade. [40493]

**Mr Gauke:** Under the principal VAT directive, member states are only permitted to apply one standard rate of value added tax which must not be less than 15%.

Member states may also apply two reduced rates of value added tax, but they are not permitted to apply a reduced rate to alcoholic beverages.

**LEADER OF THE HOUSE****Departmental Carbon Emissions**

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Leader of the House how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40519]

**Sir George Young:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given today by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker).

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT****Fair Trade**

**12. Julie Hilling:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote fair trade in developing countries. [40982]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development is committed to the relief of poverty, and one of the most cost effective means is to promote open markets through a fair and strong multilateral trading system. DFID's support to fair and ethical trade aims to double the number of Fairtrade-certified producers to 2.2 million and improve working conditions in global supply chains.

**Poverty Reduction**

**14. Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that development aid contributes to poverty reduction in the developing world. [40984]

**Mr Duncan:** DFID is highly regarded as a world leader in international development. Our focus on poverty reduction is designed to make a serious impact on attaining the Millennium Development Goals. The Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews focus rigorously on securing value for money and transparency in all that we do.

**Poverty Relief Targets**

**15. Mrs Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist African nations in meeting world poverty relief targets by 2015. [40985]

**Mr O'Brien:** DFID is helping African nations to achieve the 2015 poverty relief targets through results-driven cost-effective investments to create wealth, strengthen governance and security, save and improve the lives of women and girls, and tackle climate change. We are committed to working transparently, and maximising value for money and impact.

**Africa: Young People**

**Ms Harman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation of children and young people in (a) Sudan, (b) Uganda, (c) the Democratic Republic of Congo and (d) the Central African Republic; and what steps he is taking to support such children and young people. [41320]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** In Sudan one in 10 children die before the age of five, net enrolment in primary education is around 54% and Southern Sudan alone has over one million children out of school. In Uganda, children and young people have lost opportunities for education as a result of two decades of conflict, and now risk being unable to access the services they need because of a very high rate of population growth. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) one in five children die before their fifth birthday and more than four million



children are out of school. The Central African Republic (CAR) has been affected by civil war for a number of years. The UN estimates that 838,000 children need humanitarian assistance and one in 10 children suffers from acute malnutrition.

Investing in children and young people is of critical importance for a country's future development. DFID is currently reviewing its aid programme to ensure UK aid represents value for money for the UK taxpayer, while bringing real benefits to the world's poor and accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The conclusions of the Bilateral Aid Review (BAR), Multilateral Aid Reviews (MAR) as well as the Humanitarian and Emergency Response Review (HERR) will determine our response to the challenges faced by children and young people in these countries. Conclusion of the BAR and MAR will be announced in the coming weeks, while the HERR will report by the end of March.

#### Burundi: Reconstruction

**Pauline Latham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to support the post-conflict reconstruction process in Burundi; and what support he has provided for returning reintegrated refugees in that country. [41133]

**Mr O'Brien:** In the last four years, the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £5.8 million for post-conflict reconstruction and support for returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Burundi. UK support has enabled the refurbishment and construction of 143 schools and the repair of more than 13,000 pieces of school equipment. This has benefitted 35,000 students, of whom over 4,000 are returning refugees, and 850 teachers. 170,000 returning refugees have been successfully reintegrated and one million IDPs were provided with better access to basic health care and rural and urban water facilities.

With less than 50,000 refugees now remaining outside Burundi, DFID's focus has moved from providing humanitarian and post-conflict reconstruction support, to increasing the Government of Burundi's ability to deliver better health and education services.

DFID's future support to Burundi and the East Africa Community, of which Burundi is a member, will be announced upon the conclusion of the bilateral aid review in the coming weeks.

#### Cotonou Agreement

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that development assistance provided by the European Union under the Cotonou agreement is linked to good governance within the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States countries. [40689]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Cotonou agreement, which governs relations between the EU and the 79 African, Caribbean and the Pacific countries (ACP), is based on 'good governance' and the fundamental principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights. The violation of any of these principles can lead to a suspension of aid.

The agreement has recently been revised and sets out a clearer process for evoking the final imposition of article 96 measures, which apply when fundamental principles are breached. The UK continues to work with other member states and the European Commission to look at how to strengthen the implementation of the relevant articles.

The European Development Fund (EDF) has a governance incentive mechanism built into its aid programmes to ACP countries, through which it provides additional funding for commitments to deliver governance reforms.

#### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40517]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following sums on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years:

2007-08: £179,818

2008-09: £219,243

2009-10: £303,140.

During 2007-08 and 2008-09, the Government Carbon Offsetting Scheme was administered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the sums were therefore transferred directly to them. In 2009-10 the payment was made to EDF Trading Ltd.

#### CABINET OFFICE

##### Childbirth: Enfield

**Nick de Bois:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many births there were at (a) Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield, (b) North Middlesex Hospital, Enfield and (c) Barnet Hospital in each of the last five years. [41608]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many births there were at (a) Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield, (b) North Middlesex Hospital, Enfield and (c) Barnet Hospital in each of the last five years. [41608]

Figures for live births by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

Live births occurring in selected hospitals, 2005 to 2009

| Communal establishment            | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield      | 2,864 | 3,004 | 3,039 | 3,124 | 3,134 |
| North Middlesex Hospital, Enfield | 3,333 | 3,330 | 3,489 | 3,466 | 3,240 |

*Live births occurring in selected hospitals, 2005 to 2009*

| <i>Communal establishment</i> | <i>2005</i> | <i>2006</i> | <i>2007</i> | <i>2008</i> | <i>2009</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Barnet General Hospital       | 2,718       | 3,298       | 3,241       | 3,163       | 3,235       |

**Government Departments: Pay**

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department provides guidance to departments on data collection on the pay of sub-contracted staff. [41245]

**Mr Maude:** The Government do not require Departments to collect data on the pay of sub-contracted staff, so no guidance has been issued.

All companies, including those acting as contractors or sub-contractors to Government, are required to comply with national minimum wage legislation.

**Job Creation**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of jobs created in 2010 were (a) full-time and (b) part-time. [40630]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of part-time and full-time jobs created in 2010 (40630).

The requested information is not available. However estimates for the number of people in full-time and part-time employment are available from the Labour Force Survey. In the three months to November 2010 the number of people in full-time employment was 21,159,000, down 43,000 on the year. In the three months to November 2010 the number of people in part-time employment was 7,930,000, up 227,000 on the year. These estimates are seasonally adjusted.

**Televisions**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what data his Department holds on the average number of televisions in households in (a) 1981, (b) 1990, (c) 2000 and (d) 2010. [41285]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what data is held on the average number of televisions in households in (a) 1981, (b) 1990, (c) 2000 and (d) 2010. (41285)

The table provided shows the average number of televisions per household in the UK, in 2002/03 and 2009, the latest available. Data prior to 2002/03 are not available. These estimates are based on data from the Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF), an annual survey of approximately 5,000 households in the UK.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Average number of televisions per household, UK*

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| 2002/03 | 2.4 |
| 2009    | 2.4 |

*Source:*

Living Costs and Food Survey, Office for National Statistics

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT****Affordable Housing: Barking**

**Margaret Hodge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department plans to provide for the provision of affordable housing in the Barking Riverside development in the Thames Gateway. [40888]

**Robert Neill:** The first four plots developed at Barking Riverside will deliver 358 homes of which 167 will be affordable. The building of these homes is supported by a National Affordable Housing grant of £24 million.

Further affordable housing within future phases will be developed and supported through the HCA's new Affordable Homes programme the principal product of which is affordable rent.

**Audit Commission: Allowances**

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each director of the Audit Commission claimed for (a) hospitality and (b) other expenses in each of the last two years. [40994]

**Robert Neill:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

*Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 16 February 2011:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The amounts claimed by Managing Directors for hospitality and expenses in the last two years are detailed below:

|                                                                                   | <i>Hospitality</i> | <i>Expenses</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>2009</b>                                                                       |                    |                 |
| Chief Executive Steve Bundred                                                     | 1,557.60           | 1,445.47        |
| Managing Director Audit Martin Evans                                              | 0                  | 12.00           |
| Managing Director Finance and Corporate Services Eugene Sullivan                  | 21.60              | 1,362.59        |
| Managing Director PRS Peter Wilkinson                                             | 0                  | 533.04          |
| Managing Director Local Government Gareth Davies                                  | 0                  | 1,098.01        |
| Managing Director HR Tracey Dennison                                              | 78.21              | 394.19          |
| Managing Director Communications David Walker                                     | 1,809.03           | 404.90          |
| Managing Director Health Andy McKeon                                              | 83.25              | 583.80          |
| <b>2010</b>                                                                       |                    |                 |
| Chief Executive Steve Bundred to 31 March 2010, Eugene Sullivan from 1 April 2010 | 0                  | 1,203.30        |

|                                                                                                                                                    | Hospitality | Expenses |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Managing Director Audit Martin Evans                                                                                                               | 0           | 0        |
| Managing Director Finance and Corporate Services Eugene Sullivan to 31 March 2010. Eugene became Chief Executive on 1 April 2010.                  | 0           | 225.10   |
| Director Finance Sonia Rees was appointed Finance Director, a senior management team post, on 1 April when Eugene Sullivan became Chief Executive. | 0           | 498.21   |
| Managing Director PRS and Local Government Peter Wilkinson. The MD, Local Government role was added to this post in October 2010.                  | 0           | 0        |
| Managing Director Local Government Gareth Davies. Responsibility for this post was moved to the MD, PRS in October 2010.                           | 0           | 168.10   |
| Managing Director Audit Practice Gareth Davies. This post was created in October 2010.                                                             | 0           | 45.00    |
| Managing Director HR Tracey Dennison                                                                                                               | 0           | 46.70    |
| Managing Director Communications David Walker. This post was made redundant from September 2010 and responsibility moved to the MD, Health.        | 180.65      | 35.00    |
| Managing Director Health and Communications Andy McKeon. The MD, Communications role was added to this post in October 2010.                       | 0           | 241.46   |

Hospitality registers and expenses for the Chairman, Board members, the Chief Executive and Managing Directors are published on the Audit Commission website. These can be viewed here:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/legal/freedomofinformation/publicationscheme/hospitalityandexpenses/pages/default.aspx>

#### Audit Commission: Expenditure

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on calls to (a) premium-rate telephone numbers, (b) directory enquiry services and (c) the speaking clock in the last 36 months for which figures are available. [41008]<sup>1</sup>

**Robert Neill:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

*Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 16 February 2011:*

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission routinely bars premium rate calls for fixed and mobile phones where technically possible. Some premium rate calls are required for targeted business purposes, the main one being for postal franking machines (£162 over the three years). The speaking clock is sometimes used to test lines externally where a guaranteed reply is needed.

For our main offices, all directory enquiry calls are routed to our main provider Cable & Wireless service as this provides the most effective rate. Mobile phone calls to directory enquiries and the speaking clock are barred.

The detail of the spending requested is provided in the table below. However, information for home workers and small office users is excluded, as the detail is not readily accessible from the service supplier for the total period.

#### Main office phone system and mobile phone contracts

|                                | 12 months to 31 January |      |      |       |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------|------|-------|
|                                | 2009                    | 2010 | 2011 | Total |
| (a) Premium rate               | 55                      | 69   | 46   | 170   |
| (b) Directory enquiry services | 5                       | 1    | 1    | 7     |
| (c) Speaking clock             | 75                      | 44   | 21   | 140   |
| Total                          | 135                     | 114  | 68   | 317   |

#### Community Centres: Finance

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many community centres have been (a) refurbished and (b) built with assistance from funds from his Department in each local authority area in each year since 1997; [40816]

(2) what sources of funding from his Department community groups and local authorities may access to fund the refurbishment of rebuilding of community centres and parish meeting halls. [40817]

**Greg Clark:** In 2009-10, 15 community groups received funding from the Department's Communitybuilders programme and 24, so far, have received or will receive funding in 2010-11. A list of local authority areas where this funding has or will be made is shown as follows:

*Local authority areas in which community groups have/are to receive Communitybuilders funding*

#### 2009-10

Bradford  
Camden  
City of Bristol  
County of Herefordshire  
Eden  
Exeter  
Hammersmith and Fulham  
Islington  
Liverpool  
Sheffield  
Southwark  
Tameside  
Teignbridge  
Torridge  
Wirral

#### 2010-11

Bradford  
Calderdale  
Camden  
Cornwall  
East Lindsey  
East Cambridgeshire  
Harrogate  
Kensington and Chelsea  
Leeds  
Lewes  
Newark and Sherwood  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
North Tyneside

1. [Official Report, 1 March 2011, Vol. 524, c. 1-2MC.]



Northumberland

Rotherham

Scarborough

Grant funding to local authorities is not ringfenced and as a result we do not track what it is spent on. Decisions to target funding on refurbishment of community centres or parish halls are taken at the local level and we do not hold information on this. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

#### Community Development

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 206-7W, on citizen engagement, what (a) new legislation has been introduced and (b) bureaucracy has been removed with the aim of building a big society. [40332]

**Greg Clark:** The Localism Bill, which was published on 13 December 2010, contains a wide range of measures to devolve more powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities greater control over local decisions like housing and planning.

The Department is reducing burdens and barriers that make it difficult for local authorities and individuals taking action locally which help to build the big society. We have reduced burdens and increased flexibility for local authorities through dismantling the local performance framework and inspection regime, giving greater control over use of their funding and through measures announced in our response to the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. Increasing transparency across Whitehall and local authorities enables citizens to hold service providers to account or open up services to new providers.

The Department is removing its capital clawback rights from accountable bodies that are either a public body or a body subject to an asset lock from four historic grant programmes (Single Regeneration Budget, Urban Programme, City Challenge and Inner Area Grants). By removing capital clawback rights we are freeing councils and voluntary and community sector organisations to use assets originally funded through these programmes in ways that best meet the needs of their communities.

We continue to tackle issues drawn to our attention through DCLG's "barrier busting portal", most recently reaching agreement with the Department for Transport that their guidance on "special event" orders—which had been incorrectly presented as necessary for street parties—be withdrawn.

#### Council Tax Benefits

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the level of expenditure on council tax benefit in each local authority in 2009-10; and how much such expenditure was incurred in respect of (a) pensioner and (b) working age households in each authority. [38001]

**Steve Webb:** I have been asked to reply.

The information has been placed in the Library.

#### Departmental Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39217]

**Robert Neill:** All new contracts over £10,000, a total of four, will be published in week commencing 14 February 2011.

The Department has used Contracts Finder to publish tender documentation in respect of three requirements and has a further four live tenders that it will also be publishing in the course of week commencing 14 February 2011.

#### Housing: Taxation

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has estimated the annual revenue to be raised from implementing a levy of 1 per cent. on the monetary value of all dwellings in England and Wales valued at £2 million or higher. [40654]

**Robert Neill:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 538W.

#### Landlords: Coventry

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many landlords in Coventry have applied for a selective licence to date. [41515]

**Andrew Stunell:** This information is not held centrally.

#### Local Government: Conditions of Employment

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to revise the best value code of practice on workforce matters in local authority service contacts in relation to the terms and conditions of (a) transferred workers and (b) new employees under outsourced contracts within local government. [41324]

**Robert Neill:** The current guidance to local authorities on handling workforce matters in contracting is part of a wider suite of best value guidance. The fitness for purpose of this guidance is under consideration within the Department.

#### Non-domestic Rates: Devon

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential properties in the South Hams district council area have been transferred from council tax to business rates in the last 10 years. [40233]

**Robert Neill:** A precise count of the number of residential properties that transfer from council tax valuation lists to non domestic rating lists in the South Hams district

council area is not held, but the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has used its records to make the estimates shown in the following table, which have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Nearly all these movements between lists are as a result of seasonal holiday lets being treated as commercial property during the summer and residential property during the winter.

*Estimated number of properties inserted in non domestic rating lists that were previously residential properties*

| <i>As at April to March each year</i> | <i>Number</i> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 2000-01                               | 40            |
| 2001-02                               | 50            |
| 2002-03                               | 70            |
| 2003-04                               | 60            |
| 2004-05                               | 190           |
| 2005-06                               | 100           |
| 2006-07                               | 120           |
| 2007-08                               | 120           |
| 2008-09                               | 120           |
| 2009-10                               | 90            |

#### North East England

**Mr Alan Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Ministers of his Department have visited the north-east since their appointment; and what the (a) date and (b) purpose was of each such visit. [31783]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1308W.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), and members of his ministerial team will be visiting this area of England in due course as part of a wider programme of visits.

#### Regeneration: Newcastle upon Tyne

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 355W, on urban regeneration: Newcastle upon Tyne, what recent progress he has made in meetings to deliver a sustainable long-term future for the Byker estate. [40717]

**Andrew Stunell:** My Department and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) have held further meetings with representatives from Newcastle city council, Your Homes Newcastle, and the Byker Steering Group to establish a sound financial model for the estate. Our overriding priority is to ensure a sustainable outcome for Byker which achieves value for money and is affordable to Government. The HCA is currently undertaking a financial and technical assessment of the proposals and will shortly submit a recommendation to the Department.

#### Social Rented Housing

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed cap on household

benefit entitlement on the ability of registered social landlords to (a) build family-sized accommodation in all regions and (b) set rents at 80 per cent. of market value. [40573]

**Grant Shapps:** The new affordable rent product will allow social landlords to charge rents at up to 80% of local market rents. When setting rents, it is expected that providers will, where possible, utilise the flexibility to charge rents at 80% of local market rents in order to maximise delivery of new homes, but landlords should take into account a number of factors, including the proposed reforms of the welfare system.

We will be publishing an impact assessment on the affordable rent model shortly.

Our affordable rent proposals do not change the rights or rents of existing social tenants. Instead they will help increase the provision of new affordable housing, helping provide below-market rents to a greater number of households who would otherwise not have access to affordable housing.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition his Department uses to determine under-occupancy in the social rented sector. [40574]

**Andrew Stunell:** For the purposes of English Housing Survey a household is considered to be under-occupying if they have two or more bedrooms more than they need as measured by the Bedroom Standard. Details of the Bedroom Standard, including the rules used to calculate the number of bedrooms needed, can be found in the Glossary of the English Housing Survey Household Report 2008-09 which can be downloaded from:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/ehs200809householdreport>

#### Solar Energy: Planning Permission

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many large-scale solar photovoltaic schemes are the subject of a planning application which has not yet been determined. [40894]

**Robert Neill:** Information on undetermined planning applications for large-scale solar photovoltaic schemes will be available from individual local planning authorities but is not collected by this Department. The Renewable Energy Planning Database, accessible via the Department for Energy and Climate Change's website, includes data on solar photovoltaic projects but the statistics do not include all live planning applications because of the time lag in collecting data.

#### Standards Board for England: Furniture

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Standards Board has spent on office chairs in the last 36 months for which figures are available; and what the (a) make and model and (b) cost was of each type of chair. [41007]

**Robert Neill:** The Standards Board for England has spent £5,570.54 on office chairs since April 2008, as follows:

|                 | Make and model                 | Quantity | Unit price (£) | Total (£) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| 14 April 2008   | Herman Miller Mirra Task Chair | 3        | 517.33         | 1,551.99  |
| 8 December 2008 | Herman Miller Aeron Task Chair | 1        | 733.55         | 733.55    |
| 26 May 2009     | Herman Miller Aeron Task Chair | 2        | 657.00         | 1,314     |
| 27 July 2009    | Herman Miller Aeron Task Chair | 3        | 657.00         | 1,971     |

I note that the Localism Bill legislates to abolish the Standards Board.

#### Supporting People Programme: Liverpool

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effects of the reduction in the Supporting People grant to Liverpool city council on people in Liverpool. [39706]

**Grant Shapps** [holding answer 10 February 2011]: The Department has secured investment of £6.5 billion for the Supporting People programme over the next four years, which equates to an average annual reduction over the four years of less than 1% in cash term.

By rolling Supporting People funding into the main formula grant, we have given councils the maximum flexibility to meet their local needs in the best way. The formula grant system includes safeguards to ensure that no authority suffers a large reduction in funding. There is therefore no reason why Liverpool city council should need to impose large reductions on its spending for Supporting People services.

### ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

#### Algae: Liverpool Bay

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the level of algal blooms in Liverpool Bay; and if she will make a statement. [40953]

**Richard Benyon:** The Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) is contracted by the Environment Agency (EA) to help England and Wales comply with the requirements of the water framework directive (WFD). Samples are received on a monthly basis from a number of sites around Liverpool Bay to identify and enumerate the whole phytoplankton community. These results are then fed into various assessment tools which the EA uses to assess the environmental status of all English and Welsh coastal and transitional waters.

Currently phytoplankton abundance is estimated every 30 minutes by measuring Chlorophyll fluorescence in situ and can be linked to concurrent environmental and nutrient data.

The data are available on the CEFAS website at: <http://www.cefas.co.uk/our-science/observing-and-modelling/monitoring-programmes/monitoring-sites/liverpool-bay.aspx>

#### Flood Control: Wales

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of spending on flood defences in each parliamentary constituency in Wales was in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate she has made of the level of such spending in each such constituency in each of the next five years. [41240]

**Richard Benyon:** Flood defence spending is devolved and in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

#### Floods

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many (a) residential and (b) industrial properties in each local authority area were flooded by each source in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2009. [41091]

**Richard Benyon:** The following tables give figures recorded by the Environment Agency on the number of residential and industrial properties flooded (recorded by local authority area and by flood source) in 2005 and 2009.

| 2005 flooding statistics                  |                              |          |                   |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Local authority                           | Number of properties flooded |          | Source (if known) |
|                                           | Residential                  | Business |                   |
| Cumbria CC (mainly Carlisle City Council) | 3,066                        |          | Fluvial/SW        |
| Hampshire/West Sussex                     | 110                          | 37       | Unknown           |
| London Borough of Bexley                  | 39                           | 0        | Fluvial/SW        |
| Gloucester CC                             | 2                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Worcester CC                              | 4                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Stoke City Council                        | 1                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Conwy/Gwynedd                             | 45                           |          | Fluvial/SW        |
| Gwynedd/Anglesey                          | 10                           |          | Fluvial/SW        |
| Carmarthenshire                           | 5                            | 3        | Fluvial           |
| Pembrokeshire                             | 11                           | 2        | Fluvial           |
| Ceredigion                                | 18                           | 4        | Fluvial           |
| London Boroughs                           | 5                            | 8        | Tidal Thames      |
| Devon                                     | 69                           | 43       | Fluvial/SW        |
| Somerset                                  | 1                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Torbay                                    | 44                           | 14       | Fluvial/SW        |
| North Dorset                              | 3                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Cornwall                                  | 56                           | 2        | SW                |
| London Boroughs                           | 9                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Northumberland                            | 200                          | 23       | Fluvial           |
| Newcastle                                 | 18                           | 0        | SW                |
| North Tyneside                            | 5                            | 0        | SW                |
| Durham                                    | 3                            | 0        | Fluvial           |



## 2009 flooding statistics

| Local authority                      | Number of properties flooded |          | Source (if known) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
|                                      | Residential                  | Business |                   |
| Cumbria CC                           | 1,800                        |          | Fluvial/SW        |
| South Lakeland (Cumbria)             | 12                           |          | Fluvial/SW        |
| Hastings BC                          | 36                           | 4        | Fluvial           |
| Gloucester CC                        | 5                            | 1        | Fluvial           |
| Powys                                | 54                           | 1        | Fluvial           |
| Derbyshire Amber Valley District (B) | 10                           | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Birmingham                           | 1                            | 0        | SW                |
| Herefordshire                        | 1                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Cardiff C                            | 10                           | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Conwy                                | 3                            |          | Fluvial/SW        |
| Anglesey                             | 1                            | 2        | Fluvial/SW        |
| Gwynedd                              | 12                           |          | Fluvial           |
| Gwynedd                              | 2                            |          | GW                |
| Cardiff                              | 9                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Pembrokeshire                        | 3                            | 1        | Fluvial           |
| Bridgend                             | 4                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Bedfordshire                         | 19                           |          | SW                |
| Luton                                | 8                            |          | SW                |
| Essex                                | 21                           | 0        | SW                |
| South Holland, Lincolnshire          | 10                           | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Devon                                | 20                           | 17       | SW                |
| Somerset                             | 26                           | 3        | Fluvial/SW        |
| Torbay                               | 4                            | 3        | SW                |
| Dorset                               | 12                           | 1        | Fluvial           |
| Wiltshire                            | 2                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Hampshire                            | 1                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Bournemouth and Poole                | 8                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Cornwall                             | 74                           | 0        | SW                |
| London Boroughs                      | 203                          | 17       | Fluvial/SW        |
| Northumberland                       | 7                            | 1        | Fluvial           |
| Durham                               | 9                            | 16       | Fluvial           |
| Durham                               | 3                            | 0        | SW                |
| Redcar and Cleveland                 | 8                            | 0        | Fluvial           |
| Middlesbrough                        | 8                            | 0        | Fluvial           |

SW = Surface Water

GW = Groundwater

## Notes:

1. Property data collected has not always been broken down as being either residential or business.

2. Most inland flooding incidents are a combination of surface water and fluvial flooding.

## Public Forest Estate

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on whether owners of former Forestry Commission land disposed of by sale should be entitled to charge fees for use of the land by others. [38803]

**Mr Paice:** Under the previous Government there were no restrictions placed on the new owners of former Forestry Commission-managed land preventing them charging for use of the land, other than for access on foot where the land had been dedicated for access under the provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

We are committed to protecting the access and public benefits of the Public Forest Estate and the current consultation on the future of the estate in England sets out and invites views on our proposals to achieve this. No further sales will take place under the rules agreed by the previous administration until the mechanisms are in place to provide extra protections on access and biodiversity.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the (a) redundancy costs and (b) costs of transferring staff from the Forestry Commission to alternative owners or managers arising from her proposals for the transfer of Forestry Commission land in England. [38867]

**Mr Paice:** The outcome of the current consultation on the future of the public forest estate in England will determine the impact for existing Forestry Commission staff. There will need to be detailed consultation with staff representatives about implementation of any agreed proposals before an estimate of cost can be made.

## Forestry Commission: Scotland

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 998W, on Forestry Commission: Scotland, if she will place in the Library copies of the recent correspondence between her Department and the Forestry Minister in Scotland. [40907]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 14 February 2011]:** We do not place copies of the correspondence in the Library in order to respect the confidentiality of inter-Administration communications.

## Forestry Commission: Staff

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people the Forestry Commission employs in (a) Thirsk and Malton constituency and (b) England. [38972]

**Mr Paice:** As of January 2011, the Forestry Commission employs 1,368 people (in both full and part-time positions) across England with 61 staff based in Thirsk and Malton constituency.

## Public Forest Estate

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many expressions of interest in purchasing land in England put up for sale by the Forestry Commission have been received from (a) private buyers, (b) community or charitable bodies and (c) other public bodies since 6 May 2010. [39046]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** Expressions of interest made direct to the Forestry Commission are not recorded centrally. Land to be sold on the open market by the Forestry Commission is marketed through its professional selling agents who invite potential buyers to register their interest.

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average market price of timber from the public forest estate was in each year since 2000. [39131]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 8 February 2011]: The following table lists average price per cubic metre overbark (the volume of wood including the bark) standing of timber sold from the public forest estate by financial year since 2000-01.

|         | Direct<br>production <sup>1</sup> | Standing<br>sales <sup>2</sup> | £<br>Average all<br>sales |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 21.22                             | 10.69                          | 15.11                     |
| 2001-02 | 20.21                             | 9.64                           | 13.70                     |
| 2002-03 | 19.56                             | 7.88                           | 12.24                     |
| 2003-04 | 19.14                             | 6.78                           | 11.07                     |
| 2004-05 | 18.52                             | 6.72                           | 11.13                     |
| 2005-06 | 19.91                             | 7.80                           | 12.36                     |
| 2006-07 | 20.06                             | 9.11                           | 13.59                     |
| 2007-08 | 23.71                             | 13.08                          | 17.44                     |
| 2008-09 | 23.40                             | 13.66                          | 17.65                     |
| 2009-10 | 21.34                             | 11.49                          | 15.34                     |

<sup>1</sup> Direct production is timber harvested by the Forestry Commission and sold at ride side or delivered to customer's premises.

<sup>2</sup> Standing sales is timber sold as standing trees and harvested by the customer.

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what land owned by the Forestry Commission is for sale. [40425]

**Mr Paice:** The following table shows the Forestry Commission England land that was identified using the 2010-11 sales criteria put in place by the previous Administration and where sales are agreed but not yet completed. No further sales will take place until the mechanisms are in place to provide extra protections on access and biodiversity.

| Region             | Wood                                    | Area (ha) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| York and Humber    | Wadworth                                | 94        |
| York and Humber    | Arncliffe                               | 173       |
| York and Humber    | Thwaite Wood (Old Field Wood)           | 21        |
| West Midlands      | Limburies                               | 12        |
| West Midlands      | Brookshill                              | 30        |
| West Midlands      | Mansty, Cannock (Pillaton)—with above   | —         |
| West Midlands      | Madeley Heath Lot 1 Waltons             | 30        |
| West Midlands      | Buxton                                  | 8         |
| West Midlands      | Madeley Heath Lot 2 Old Wharf           | 13        |
| South West England | Bircham                                 | 20        |
| South West England | Lulworth Woods                          | 255       |
| South West England | Ashclyst                                | 2         |
| South West England | Hay Wood                                | 53        |
| South West England | Pt Grogley                              | 4         |
| South West England | Lot 2 Rookery Wood, Coombe Valley Woods | 6         |

| Region             | Wood                                                                                                      | Area (ha) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| South West England | Sleech and Pond. Lot 1 Sleech Wood                                                                        | 14        |
| South West England | Sleech and Pond. Lot 2 Pond Coppice                                                                       | 2         |
| South West England | Lot 1 Stowe Wood Coombe Valley Woods                                                                      | 53        |
| South West England | Winsford                                                                                                  | 23        |
| South West England | Beardown                                                                                                  | 48        |
| South West England | Stonaford and North Hill, Trebatha, Bodmin                                                                | 65        |
| South East England | Buscot and Badbury                                                                                        | 168       |
| South East England | Orlestone (Penfold Wood)                                                                                  | 7.29      |
| South East England | Alice Holt (Wey Spinney north of railway)                                                                 | 2         |
| South East England | Brassets Wood                                                                                             | 19.88     |
| South East England | Lot 1 Land at Christmas Common (paddock) also known as Field at Queens and College Wood                   | 0.23      |
| South East England | Lot 2 Land at Christmas Common (footings of former office) also known as Field at Queens and College Wood | 0.19      |
| South East England | Market Reading, (Latimer)                                                                                 | 3.68      |
| South East England | Sulham                                                                                                    | 98.30     |
| South East England | Rewell                                                                                                    | 281       |
| South East England | Houghton                                                                                                  | 233       |
| South East England | New sowed wood (Shardeloes)                                                                               | 2         |
| North West England | Bigwood                                                                                                   | 29        |
| North West England | Dalton Park                                                                                               | 79        |
| East Midlands      | Compton Estate—Cold Oak                                                                                   | 42        |
| East Midlands      | Compton Estate—Horn Wood                                                                                  | 24        |
| East Midlands      | Compton Estate—Long Furlong (Easton)                                                                      | 73        |
| East Midlands      | Wadworth—Wet Holt                                                                                         | 6         |

#### Forests: Bedfordshire

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the access arrangements are for Dedmansey Wood in South West Bedfordshire constituency. [39867]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 11 February 2011]: Dedmansey Wood is leased by the Forestry Commission. The terms of the lease prevent the commission from providing public access to it.

#### Forests: Devon

**Anne Marie Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many acres of forest land the Forestry Commission owns in (a) Devon and (b) Newton Abbot constituency; and where such land is located. [39254]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 9 February 2011]: The Forestry Commission public forest estate in Devon extends to approximately 8,987 hectares, of which, 455 hectares is in the Newton Abbott constituency. This is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967.

The following table lists the woods that comprise the public forest estate in Devon.

| Grid reference | Constituency            | Wood name                      | Area (ha) |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| SS420020       | Torridge and West Devon | Halwill, Clawmoor, Croftmoor   | 875       |
| SX871870       | Central Devon           | Haldon2                        | 724       |
| SX655834       | Torridge and West Devon | Fernworthy                     | 575       |
| SX646771       | Torridge and West Devon | Believer                       | 540       |
| SX527600       | South West Devon        | Plym Main Block                | 516       |
| SS291198       | Torridge and West Devon | Meddon, Summerwell, Wooley     | 410       |
| SX913810       | Newton Abbott           | Haldon4                        | 350       |
| SS695109       | Central Devon           | Eggesford                      | 311       |
| SS373191       | Torridge and West Devon | Melbury Hill, Powlers Piece    | 308       |
| SX431964       | Torridge and West Devon | Witherdon, Westlake, Upcott    | 285       |
| SX881839       | Central Devon           | Haldon3                        | 229       |
| SY112918       | East Devon              | East Hill                      | 217       |
| SX938854       | Central Devon           | Sousons                        | 215       |
| SX592972       | Central Devon           | Berrydown, Abbeyford           | 208       |
| SX925960       | Central Devon           | Wadland, Ashbury, Homing Down  | 188       |
| SX904787       | Central Devon           | Oldridge                       | 170       |
| SX825825       | Central Devon           | Canonteign                     | 170       |
| SS700337       | North Devon             | Gratton, Sheracombe, Hunstone  | 165       |
| SX492843       | Torridge and West Devon | Burley Down, Brentor           | 151       |
| SS353012       | Torridge and West Devon | Circuit, Rydon, Merryfield     | 140       |
| ST118074       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Sheldon                        | 137       |
| SX820754       | Central Devon           | Great Plantation               | 137       |
| SS804273       | North Devon             | Molland Estate                 | 129       |
| SX401987       | Torridge and West Devon | Quoditch                       | 106       |
| SY309948       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Wylde Warr, Trinity Hill, Hole | 104       |
| SX472666       | Torridge and West Devon | Denham                         | 99        |
| SX469960       | Torridge and West Devon | Northcombe                     | 93        |
| SY185990       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Offwell                        | 84        |
| SX882766       | Newton Abbott           | Haldon5                        | 78        |
| SY211921       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Morganhayes                    | 68        |
| SX900827       | Central Devon           | Haldon5                        | 67        |
| SS645085       | Torridge and West Devon | Winkleigh                      | 65        |
| SX860956       | Central Devon           | Powderham, Cleave              | 63        |
| ST122159       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Culm Davey                     | 63        |
| SX820754       | Central Devon           | Haldon1                        | 60        |
| SX664742       | Torridge and West Devon | Brimpts                        | 58        |
| SY159961       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Offwell, Farway                | 56        |
| SX491864       | Torridge and West Devon | Lydford                        | 54        |
| ST003186       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Huntsham                       | 48        |
| SY221969       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Parchayne                      | 47        |
| SS330007       | Torridge and West Devon | Leworthy                       | 47        |
| SY112918       | East Devon              | Straightway                    | 46        |
| SX925961       | Exeter                  | Stoke Wood2                    | 44        |
| SS636149       | Torridge and West Devon | Bithefin                       | 43        |
| SS644214       | North Devon             | Shortbridge                    | 42        |
| SX468715       | Torridge and West Devon | Birch Wood                     | 39        |
| SS649419       | North Devon             | Wistlandpound                  | 37        |
| SX677795       | Central Devon           | Stoke Wood1                    | 35        |
| SS404046       | Torridge and West Devon | Ltl Moor, Mdl Rolls, Westcott  | 30        |
| SS547197       | Torridge and West Devon | Dodscott, Moreton, Deers Hill  | 30        |
| SX528666       | Torridge and West Devon | Olderwood                      | 28        |
| SS396061       | Torridge and West Devon | Cookbury                       | 28        |
| SX943815       | Newton Abbott           | Black Forest                   | 27        |
| SS410054       | Torridge and West Devon | Bramble Wood                   | 25        |
| SY059950       | East Devon              | Straighway Head                | 21        |
| SX519963       | East Devon              | Buckley                        | 20        |
| SX476827       | Torridge and West Devon | Langstone Wood                 | 13        |
| ST189081       | Tiverton and Honiton    | South Cleave                   | 10        |
| SS404039       | Torridge and West Devon | Dunsland                       | 9         |
| SY331950       | Tiverton and Honiton    | Whitty Hill                    | 9         |
| SX473828       | Torridge and West Devon | Asheltor Wood                  | 9         |
| SX477831       | Torridge and West Devon | Coles Wood                     | 9         |
| SX559598       | South West Devon        | Hooksbury                      | 9         |



| Grid reference | Constituency         | Wood name   | Area (ha) |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| SY331959       | Tiverton and Honiton | Forches     | 8         |
| SX565604       | South West Devon     | Browns Wood | 7         |

### Forests: Ministerial Statements

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many (a) oral and (b) written ministerial statements have been made by Ministers in her Department on (i) the Forestry Commission and (ii) UK Forestry in each year since 2001; and what title her Department assigned to each statement. [40897]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 14 February 2011]: All oral and written statements made by DEFRA are recorded in the *Official Report*. Separate records outside the current Session of Parliament are not kept in the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

To date, in the 2010-11 Session, there has been one written ministerial statement, 'Public Forest Estate', on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 16-18WS.

### Public Forest Estate

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the net cost to the public purse of the sale of (a) forestry woodland and (b) commercial woodland in her proposals for the future of the public forest estate; and if she will make a statement. [38970]

**Mr Paice:** We are currently consulting on the proposals for the future of the public forest estate in England. No decisions will be made until after the conclusion of the consultation.

The Impact Assessment includes initial estimates of the set cost of any sales to be comparable with those that have taken place to date, which is approximately 5% of the gross sale value.

### Forests: Timber

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage change in the volume of wood supplied to the market from the public forest estate in (a) England and (b) the UK there was in each year since 1999. [41082]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 15 February 2011]: The following table gives the percentage change in wood production each year from 1999 to 2009. Figures for 2010 are not yet available.

| Calendar year | England (green tonnes) | Percentage change from the previous year | Percentage change from 1999 baseline | UK <sup>1</sup> (green tonnes) | Percentage change from the previous year | Percentage change from 1999 baseline |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1999          | 1,379,000              |                                          |                                      | 4,853,000                      |                                          |                                      |
| 2000          | 1,270,000              | -8                                       | -8                                   | 4,980,000                      | +3                                       | +3                                   |
| 2001          | 1,205,000              | -5                                       | -13                                  | 4,749,000                      | -5                                       | -2                                   |
| 2002          | 1,211,000              | +1                                       | -12                                  | 4,768,000                      | 0                                        | -2                                   |
| 2003          | 1,214,000              | 0                                        | -12                                  | 4,934,000                      | +4                                       | +2                                   |
| 2004          | 1,308,000              | +8                                       | -5                                   | 5,007,000                      | +2                                       | +3                                   |
| 2005          | 1,255,000              | -4                                       | -9                                   | 4,680,000                      | -6                                       | -4                                   |
| 2006          | 1,194,000              | -5                                       | -13                                  | 4,627,000                      | -1                                       | -5                                   |
| 2007          | 1,248,000              | +5                                       | -9                                   | 4,693,000                      | +1                                       | -3                                   |
| 2008          | 1,140,000              | -9                                       | -17                                  | 4,458,000                      | -5                                       | -8                                   |
| 2009          | 1,291,000              | +13                                      | -6                                   | 5,213,000                      | +17                                      | +7                                   |

<sup>1</sup> UK includes Forestry Commission managed woodland (England, Scotland and Wales) and the Forest Service in Northern Ireland.

Note:

Percentages are given to the nearest whole number.

### Irish Sea: Pollution

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment her Department has made since 2007 of the effect of polychlorinated biphenyls on the marine environment in the Irish Sea; [41043]

(2) which (a) statutory and (b) non-statutory bodies have monitored pollution levels in the Irish Sea in each year since 2007; [41221]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of monitoring pollution levels in the Irish Sea in each year since 2007. [41225]

**Richard Benyon:** The Irish sea is bounded by England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish

Republic and these regions all have their own arrangements for monitoring and reporting on pollution in the Irish sea.

A number of UK statutory bodies have co-operated since 2007 to ensure that the monitoring of pollution in UK marine waters in the Irish sea is appropriately funded and carried out. The bodies involved are:

in England and Wales: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Transport, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Welsh Assembly Government, Environment Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency;

in Scotland: Scottish Executive, Marine Scotland (formerly Fisheries Research Services), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, and;

in Northern Ireland: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute.

Small amounts of monitoring may also be done by the Loughs Agency which is a cross-border body partly supported by Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

A number of non-statutory bodies also measure pollution levels in the Irish sea, including marine institutes, universities, industries and non-governmental organisations.

The monitoring carried out by these bodies is brought together and co-ordinated through the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS), which has the goal of ensuring the cost-effective provision of the information needed for policy and management decisions to deliver the UK marine vision of clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse seas. UKMMAS has recently published Charting Progress 2, an assessment of the state of UK seas, which also includes assessments of the status of the Irish sea available at:

<http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk>

The UK Government co-operate with the Irish Government in the framework of the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic through participation in its Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme. Regular joint assessments of the status of the various regions of the North East Atlantic are made. OSPAR has recently published its Quality Status Report 2010, which includes assessments of the state of pollution across the North-East Atlantic, including in the Irish sea.

The monitoring of pollution in the Irish sea is funded by a number of government bodies in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Funds are generally allocated on a national basis and support monitoring across all the seas within each administration's jurisdiction. It is not therefore possible to distinguish the specific amount of money allocated to monitoring pollution levels in the Irish sea.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are monitored in the Irish sea under the Clean Seas Environmental Monitoring Programme. Levels are assessed in sediments and biota (shellfish and fish liver).

PCB results were incorporated in the Clean and Safe Seas chapter of Charting Progress 2 which was delivered in 2010. Results were also included in the Quality Status Report 2010 prepared by the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the marine environment of the North East Atlantic.

These reports concluded, that despite these substances having been banned, exceedances of the environmental quality standards for PCBs at some sites are still being observed within the Irish sea.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the mass of fertiliser washed into the Irish sea in each of the last 10 years. [41216]

**Richard Benyon:** The monitoring of pollution in the Irish sea is carried out by a number of organisations in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Various components of fertilizer are monitored, such as: ammonia, nitrate, orthophosphate, and nitrogen but no records are held centrally of the total mass of fertilizer discharged into the Irish sea.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pollution incidents of each type there were on each river flowing into the Irish sea in each of the past 10 years. [41220]

**Richard Benyon:** The following table shows the estimated number of category 1 (major) and 2 (significant) pollution incidents that had an impact to water in a catchment that flowed in to the Irish sea.

|      | Number of category 1 and 2 incidents |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2001 | 182                                  |
| 2002 | 140                                  |
| 2003 | 127                                  |
| 2004 | 150                                  |
| 2005 | 115                                  |
| 2006 | 112                                  |
| 2007 | 93                                   |
| 2008 | 90                                   |
| 2009 | 105                                  |
| 2010 | 87                                   |

Not all recorded incidents will have reached the Irish sea. Pollutants would have broken down before they entered the sea.

Not all of the incidents will have had a major or significant impact on the Irish sea. The incident level is recorded on site which can be many miles from the sea.

#### Public Forest Estate: Land

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of the net cost of (a) the proposed transfer to the charitable sector of land in (i) the New Forest and (ii) the Forest of Dean and (b) the proposed disposal of Kielder Forest which will be met from the public purse. [39281]

**Mr Paice:** An impact assessment was published alongside the current consultation on the future of the Forestry Commission public forest estate in England. This gives an initial indication of costs for each of the policy options outlined in the consultation, but does not consider them in relation to specific sites.

No decisions about the future of the sites mentioned will be made until after the conclusion of the consultation.

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effects on common land of the provisions of the Localism Bill. [41169]

**Richard Benyon:** No formal assessment has been made on the likely effects on common land of the provision of the Localism Bill. Restricted works on registered and certain other common land require the consent of the Secretary of State under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006. The Localism Bill does not affect the requirement for such consent.

#### Nature Reserves

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the long-term trends in visits to nature reserves. [41042]

**Richard Benyon:** There are a number of different statutory and non-statutory designations of nature reserve. These range from informal designations made by nature conservation bodies, through local wildlife sites and local nature reserves, to the nationally designated National Nature Reserve series. We do not hold information on long-term trends in numbers of visits to these sites.

#### Plantations

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise-owned plantations of 50 hectares or more in Yorkshire and the Humber

(a) have been bought since 1981, (b) have been sold since 1981 and (c) are scheduled for sale; and what the (i) name, (ii) ordnance survey grid reference, (iii) local authority area, (iv) size, (v) price and (vi) date of purchase or sale was in each case. [38689]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 7 February 2011]:** The public forest estate is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967. Acquisitions and sales, including areas in the process of being sold, since 1997 are given in the following table.

|                                                    | Grid reference | Local authority    | Area (ha) | Net price (£) | Date              |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| <i>Acquisitions since 1997</i>                     |                |                    |           |               |                   |
| Wombwell Wood—Community Wood                       | SE379025       | Barnsley district  | 52        | 0             | 30 September 2002 |
| Upper Woodhead Farm—Community Wood                 | SE369032       | Barnsley district  | 58        | 0             | 1 June 2010       |
| <i>Sales since 1997</i>                            |                |                    |           |               |                   |
| Wraby Moors, North Lindsey, Brigg                  | TA031105       | North Lincolnshire | 70        | 104,000       | 22 April 2009     |
| Faceby (Bonny Cliff)                               | NZ509019       | North Yorkshire    | 62        | 40,000        | 1 December 2010   |
| <i>Being sold as part of the 2010-11 programme</i> |                |                    |           |               |                   |
| Arnccliffe                                         | SE454990       | North Yorkshire    | 173       | —             | Sale agreed       |
| Wadworth                                           | SK556972       | Doncaster district | 94        | —             | Sale agreed       |

#### Sewage: Railways

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the legality of authorisations granted for train operating companies discharging sewage onto railway tracks. [40558]

**Richard Benyon:** The discharge of sewage onto railway tracks is lawfully provided via an exemption from the need for an environmental permit. This is set out in Chapter 4 of Schedule 3 to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. The discharge is exempt providing the operator: meets the rules of the exemption; registers the exemption with the Environment Agency; and carries out the operation without endangering human health or risking harm to the environment.

The Government carry out regular reviews of exemptions from environmental permitting to ensure the controls are proportionate to the risk posed.

#### Squirrels

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Forestry Commission spent on controlling the size of the squirrel population on its estate between 2008 and 2010. [39907]

**Mr Paice:** The Forestry Commission in England spent approximately £102,000 during 2008-09 and £127,000 during 2009-10 on activities associated with the control of grey squirrel populations on the public forest estate.

#### Wareham Forest

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of Wareham Forest; and what steps she plans to take to maintain current public rights of access, rights to recreational activity and levels of biodiversity. [39032]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 8 February 2011]:** The main block of Wareham Forest has been indicatively categorised as 'heritage' on the map that accompanies the consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate in England. We are committed to protecting the public benefits that are currently provided by the Public Forest Estate, including public access and biodiversity. The consultation sets out and invites views on the proposals for protecting these benefits.

#### Timber: Licensing

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much timber was removed under felling licences from (a) Oxford West and Abingdon constituency and (b) Oxfordshire in each year since 2007. [38388]

**Mr Paice:** The Forestry Commission records information on felling licences and grant schemes (which may have associated permission to fell trees) by local authority area. Information by constituency could be provided only at disproportionate cost.



The following table gives details of the felling licences issued in each district in Oxfordshire for each financial year from 2007-08. A licence, which is valid for between two and five years, gives the landowner permission to fell the trees but does not place them under any obligation

to do so. The Forestry Commission does not record timber volume removals as a result of the licences it issues or felling permission given in association with woodland grant scheme agreements.

|                     | Clear felling |                             | Cutting coppice |                             | Other felling <sup>1</sup> |                             | Thinning     |                             | Total        |                             |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
|                     | Area<br>(ha)  | Volume<br>(m <sup>3</sup> ) | Area<br>(ha)    | Volume<br>(m <sup>3</sup> ) | Area<br>(ha)               | Volume<br>(m <sup>3</sup> ) | Area<br>(ha) | Volume<br>(m <sup>3</sup> ) | Area<br>(ha) | Volume<br>(m <sup>3</sup> ) |
| <b>2007-08</b>      |               |                             |                 |                             |                            |                             |              |                             |              |                             |
| Cherwell District   | 1.2           | 977                         | —               | 2                           | —                          | 15                          | 4.9          | 191                         | 6.1          | 1,185                       |
| Oxford District     | 0.1           | 16                          | —               | —                           | —                          | —                           | —            | 5                           | 0.1          | 21                          |
| South Oxfordshire   | 1             | 178                         | —               | —                           | —                          | 7                           | 105.7        | 3,586                       | 106.7        | 3,771                       |
| Vale of White Horse | 2.1           | 660                         | —               | —                           | 0.6                        | 88                          | 104.8        | 2,909                       | 107.5        | 3,657                       |
| West Oxfordshire    | 4.6           | 546                         | 0.6             | 114                         | 0.5                        | 80                          | 9.1          | 381                         | 14.8         | 1,121                       |
| <b>2008-09</b>      |               |                             |                 |                             |                            |                             |              |                             |              |                             |
| Cherwell District   | —             | 10                          | —               | 5                           | 1                          | 99                          | 61.2         | 2,038                       | 62.3         | 2,152                       |
| Oxford District     | —             | —                           | —               | 5                           | —                          | —                           | 5.1          | 30                          | 5.1          | 35                          |
| South Oxfordshire   | 0.5           | 10                          | —               | —                           | 0.4                        | 17                          | 299.6        | 14,038                      | 300.5        | 14,065                      |
| Vale of White Horse | 1.9           | 1,080                       | 2               | 100                         | 19.1                       | 11,587                      | 10.6         | 1,647                       | 33.6         | 14,414                      |
| West Oxfordshire    | 5.3           | 801                         | 0.1             | 10                          | 13                         | 759                         | 151.1        | 3,257                       | 169.5        | 4,827                       |
| <b>2009-10</b>      |               |                             |                 |                             |                            |                             |              |                             |              |                             |
| Cherwell District   | 4.1           | 1,184                       | 0.1             | 5                           | 1.5                        | 146                         | 37.6         | 1,825                       | 43.3         | 3,160                       |
| Oxford District     | —             | —                           | —               | —                           | —                          | 10                          | —            | —                           | —            | 10                          |
| South Oxfordshire   | 3.3           | 241                         | 0.8             | 156                         | 7.6                        | 540                         | 72.5         | 2,183                       | 84.2         | 3,120                       |
| Vale of White Horse | 1.7           | 40                          | —               | —                           | 0.7                        | 41                          | 11           | 235                         | 13.4         | 316                         |
| West Oxfordshire    | 2.7           | 1,327                       | 4.8             | 150                         | 5.1                        | 1,131                       | 371          | 11,354                      | 383.6        | 13,962                      |

<sup>1</sup> Other felling includes selective felling, hedgerow trees and single isolated trees not forming part of a woodland.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biofuels

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the (a) prospects for, (b) funding requirements for and (c) potential contribution of large-scale biomass developments to his Department's energy strategy. [40925]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC's renewable energy planning database (REPD) at:

<https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/welcome-to-the-restats-web-site>

contains detailed information on biomass plant under construction, in planning, and consented in the UK. There are no large scale (>50 MW) dedicated biomass plants currently operational in the UK, however, a 50 MW combined heat and power biomass plant is under construction at Markinch, Fife. Four projects for large-scale plant have received planning consent (805 MW total capacity) and six large-scale projects (1.2 GW total capacity) are currently under planning consideration.

Modelling to inform delivery of the renewable energy directive target suggested that up to around 10 TWh of renewable generation in 2020 might come from dedicated biomass generation, or biomass CHP (based on an estimate of around 1.3 GW by 2020). This estimate is not based on specific size of plant. The renewables

obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising large scale renewable deployment. The cost of renewables obligation support for this level of biomass generation is estimated to be in the region of £0.5 to £1 billion in 2020 (2010-11 prices).

We are currently reviewing the level of support for all renewables technologies, and will consult on any changes to RO bands this summer. As part of that process, we have asked our consultants Arup to provide updated assumptions on potential deployment and costs for each renewable electricity technology.

### Chemicals: Teesside

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet representatives of the chemical industry from Teesside to discuss UK energy policy. [41079]

**Charles Hendry [holding answer 15 February 2011]:** The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and all the ministerial team at DECC value the importance of the UK chemicals industry to the UK economy and helping to deliver a low carbon economy. DECC Ministers and officials are already engaged with representatives from the chemicals industry to discuss the impact of DECC policies on their sector. Last September I met with representatives from the Chemical Industries Association to discuss UK energy and climate change policies.

## Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40286]

**Gregory Barker:** Figures for the amount spent on carbon offsets purchased through the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility by Central Government Departments are shown in the following table.

| Department                                                                  | Financial year        |                       |                                 | £ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
|                                                                             | 2007-08               | 2008-09               | 2009-10 <sup>1</sup>            |   |
| Cabinet Office (including No. 10 Downing street)                            | 43,129                | 44,595                | 0                               |   |
| Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)                        | 58,578                | 51,532                | 0                               |   |
| Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)                        | 3,965                 | 2,208                 | 0                               |   |
| Department for Communities and Local Government                             | 2,338                 | 2,657                 | 0                               |   |
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)                              | 3,469                 | 3,469                 | 0                               |   |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)                  | 50,481                | 50,541                | 0                               |   |
| Department for International Development (DFID)                             | 179,818               | 219,243               | 0                               |   |
| Department for Transport (DfT)                                              | 12,756                | 13,111                | 0                               |   |
| Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)                                      | 27,641                | 27,365                | 0                               |   |
| Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)                              | n/a                   | n/a                   | 11,670                          |   |
| Department of Health                                                        | 9,099                 | 9,117                 | 0                               |   |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)                                       | 263,595               | 0                     | 742,066                         |   |
| Government Equalities Office (GEO)                                          | 0                     | 0                     | 0                               |   |
| HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)                                               | 55,429                | 69,098                | 0                               |   |
| HM Treasury                                                                 | 8,808                 | 11,892                | 0                               |   |
| Home Office                                                                 | 30,369                | 29,120                | 0                               |   |
| Law Officer's Department (LOD)                                              | 5,839                 | 8,925                 | 0                               |   |
| Northern Ireland Office (NIO)                                               | 6,339                 | 6,448                 | 0                               |   |
| Ministry of Defence (MOD)                                                   | 167,215               | 240,881               | 0                               |   |
| Ministry of Justice (MOJ) (including Department for Constitutional Affairs) | 14,825                | 14,956                | 0                               |   |
| Payments made to:                                                           | Trading Emissions plc | Trading Emissions plc | Essent Trading International SA |   |

<sup>1</sup> Some Departments may have purchased offsets in 2010-11 to account for emissions which took place in 2009-10 and therefore have a zero entry for 2009-10.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Energy section of DECC from 3 October 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Energy section of DECC from 3 October 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Climate Change section of DECC from 3 October 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Includes Climate Change section of DECC from 3 October 2008.

<sup>6</sup> Includes Act On CO<sub>2</sub> Campaign.

## Green Climate Fund

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to his oral statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 698-99W, on the Cancun Climate Change Conference, what the membership of the board of the green climate fund is; when he expects the fund to become operational; and how the fund will be capitalised. [41596]

**Gregory Barker:** The operational details of the green climate fund, including its board membership and financing structure, will be considered by a Transitional Committee. This committee has been tasked with designing the fund and making its recommendations to COP 17 later this year. Terms of reference for the committee were annexed to the Cancun agreement. The timing of the fund becoming operational will depend on decisions taken at COP 17.

## Radioactive Waste

**Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average quantity of radioactive materials released into the atmosphere from each (a) coal-fired and (b) nuclear power station in each of the last five years. [40680]

**Charles Hendry:** Assessments published by the National Radiological Protection Board, now a division of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in 2001 confirmed that the radioactivity in coal and its waste products is below the threshold value for regulation as a radioactive substance. This remains the most recent and authoritative report in respect of these discharges. It is available on the HPA website at:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/NRPBArchive/MiscellaneousNRPBReports/Abstracts1996To2001/2001nrpbR327/>

Principal atmospheric discharges for 2006 to 2009 from operating nuclear power stations, and those undergoing decommissioning, are provided in the following table. The data are as reported to the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and published in the annual publication, 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE)'. Copies of RIFE are available in the Libraries of the House and on the Food Standards Agency website at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/science/surveillance/radiosurv/rife/>

Data for 2010 are not yet available.

| Site name/<br>radioactivity | TBq               |          |          |          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                             | 2006 <sup>a</sup> | 2007     | 2008     | 2009     |
| <b>Berkeley</b>             |                   |          |          |          |
| Beta                        | 4.04E-07          | 2.53E-07 | 2.73E-07 | 5.10E-07 |
| Tritium                     | 0.00386           | 0.00421  | 0.00469  | 3.39E-03 |
| Carbon-14                   | 1.66E-04          | 2.50E-04 | 2.82E-04 | 2.24E-04 |
| <b>Bradwell</b>             |                   |          |          |          |
| Beta                        | 9.76E-06          | 4.13E-06 | 1.91E-07 | 2.08E-07 |
| Tritium                     | 0.00843           | 0.0226   | 0.00691  | 9.87E-03 |
| Carbon-14                   | 5.63E-04          | 0.00111  | 0.00116  | 6.24E-04 |

| Site name/<br>radioactivity | TBq      |         |         |      |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------|---------|------|
|                             | 2006     | 2007    | 2008    | 2009 |
| <i>Chapelcross</i>          |          |         |         |      |
| Tritium                     | 121      | 85.1    | 68.4    | 95.1 |
| Sulphur-35                  | 4.20E-05 | 2.7E-05 | 3.9E-05 | Nil  |
| Argon-41                    | Nil      | Nil     | Nil     | Nil  |

*Dungeness A*

|                   |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beta <sup>1</sup> | 1.97E-04 | 6.41E-05 | 5.21E-05 | 3.91E-05 |
| Tritium           | 0.181    | 0.219    | 0.0347   | 0.0238   |
| Carbon-14         | 1.93     | 0.243    | 0.00111  | 0.0301   |
| Sulphur-35        | 0.047    | 0.00165  | 2.58E-04 | 9.87E-04 |
| Argon-41          | 1280     | Nil      | Nil      | Nil      |

*Dungeness B*

|                          |          |          |          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beta <sup>1,2</sup>      | 5.54E-06 | 1.34E-06 | —        | —        |
| Tritium                  | 2.99     | 4.46     | 8.1      | 9.06     |
| Carbon-14                | 0.601    | 0.797    | 0.73     | 0.634    |
| Sulphur-35               | 0.0201   | 0.0366   | 0.0509   | 0.0957   |
| Argon-41                 | 13.6     | 20.9     | 12.8     | 24.4     |
| Cobalt-60 <sup>1,3</sup> | —        | 3.67E-07 | 3.14E-07 | 6.82E-07 |
| Iodine-131               | 2.19E-06 | 1.03E-05 | 1.52E-05 | 1.68E-05 |

*Hartlepool*

|                          |          |          |         |          |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Beta <sup>1,2</sup>      | 4.32E-06 | 9.42E-07 | —       | —        |
| Tritium                  | 1.26     | 0.843    | 0.114   | 0.704    |
| Carbon-14                | 1.47     | 1.66     | 0.0152  | 1.17     |
| Sulphur-35               | 0.0198   | 0.0187   | 0.0025  | 0.019    |
| Argon-41                 | 4.52     | 6.83     | 0.00104 | 6.12     |
| Cobalt-60 <sup>1,3</sup> | —        | 1.95E-06 | 4.0E-06 | 1.19E-05 |
| Iodine-131               | 2.29E-05 | 4.76E-05 | 8.9E-05 | 1.69E-04 |

*Heysham 1*

|                          |          |          |         |          |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Beta <sup>1</sup>        | 8.57E-06 | 1.91E-06 | —       | —        |
| Tritium                  | 1.04     | 1.18     | 0.47    | 0.785    |
| Carbon-14                | 1.72     | 1.48     | 0.033   | 1.3      |
| Sulphur-35               | 0.0241   | 0.021    | 0.014   | 0.0194   |
| Argon-41                 | 8.55     | 8.01     | Nil     | 0.314    |
| Cobalt-60 <sup>1,3</sup> | —        | 4.42E-06 | 5.9E-06 | 5.55E-06 |
| Iodine-131               | 1.10E-04 | 8.99E-05 | 8.0E-05 | 7.96E-05 |

*Heysham 2*

|                          |          |          |         |          |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Beta <sup>1</sup>        | 1.18E-05 | 2.76E-06 | —       | —        |
| Tritium                  | 0.994    | 1.17     | 1.2     | 0.85     |
| Carbon-14                | 1.27     | 1.52     | 1.7     | 1.4      |
| Sulphur-35               | 0.0149   | 0.01     | 0.013   | 0.0108   |
| Argon-41                 | 11.8     | 8.84     | 6.6     | 17.8     |
| Cobalt-60 <sup>1,3</sup> | —        | 6.94E-06 | 7.3E-06 | 1.35E-05 |
| Iodine-131               | 5.39E-05 | 3.82E-05 | 5.8E-05 | 9.36E-05 |

*Hinkley Point A*

|           |          |          |          |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beta      | 8.39E-07 | 4.37E-07 | 4.99E-07 | 3.67E-07 |
| Tritium   | 0.121    | 0.103    | 0.113    | 6.62E-02 |
| Carbon-14 | 6.87E-04 | 7.12E-04 | 7.31E-04 | 7.25E-04 |

*Hinkley Point B*

|                   |          |          |      |       |
|-------------------|----------|----------|------|-------|
| Beta <sup>1</sup> | 2.48E-05 | 6.24E-06 | —    | —     |
| Tritium           | 6.52     | 0.902    | 1.48 | 2.55  |
| Carbon-14         | 1.32     | 0.472    | 1.11 | 0.908 |
| Sulphur-35        | 0.180    | 0.0670   | 0.12 | 0.106 |

| Site name/<br>radioactivity | TBq      |          |          |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                             | 2006     | 2007     | 2008     | 2009     |
| Argon-41                    | 8.04     | 3.76     | 8.85     | 12.1     |
| Cobalt-60 <sup>1,3</sup>    | —        | 5.23E-06 | 8.03E-06 | 7.55E-06 |
| Iodine-131                  | 4.06E-06 | 5.91E-06 | 7.03E-06 | 6.33E-06 |

*Hunterston A*

|                   |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beta <sup>1</sup> | 2.83E-07 | 3.8E-07  | 4.26E-07 | 4.40E-07 |
| Tritium           | 0.00197  | 0.00161  | 0.0013   | 0.00113  |
| Carbon-14         | 1.84E-04 | 1.81E-04 | 1.28E-04 | 1.17E-04 |

*Hunterston B*

|                         |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beta <sup>1</sup>       | 3.40E-05 | 4.47E-05 | 7.08E-05 | 1.14E-04 |
| Tritium                 | 1.66     | 1.60     | 2.78     | 3.31     |
| Carbon-14               | 1.68     | 0.540    | 1.31     | 1.32     |
| Sulphur-35              | 0.0222   | 0.0182   | 0.0436   | 0.0684   |
| Argon-41                | 20.6     | 5.9      | 12.4     | 12.7     |
| Iodine-131 <sup>4</sup> | —        | 8.13E-05 | 4.0E-04  | 1.30E-04 |

*Oldbury*

|            |          |          |          |          |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beta       | 1.39E-05 | 1.56E-05 | 2.94E-05 | 4.42E-05 |
| Tritium    | 1.72     | 1.31     | 1.59     | 2.05     |
| Carbon-14  | 0.887    | 0.325    | 0.93     | 1.44     |
| Sulphur-35 | 0.0412   | 0.0133   | 0.0546   | 0.0821   |
| Argon-41   | 19.6     | 5.2      | 19.3     | 29.1     |

*Sizewell A*

|            |          |          |         |          |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Beta       | 2.23E-04 | 3.80E-06 | E-06    | 1.90E-06 |
| Tritium    | 1.42     | 1.18     | 0.659   | 0.214    |
| Carbon-14  | 1.49     | 0.11     | 0.0464  | 0.0131   |
| Sulphur-35 | 0.143    | 0.015    | 0.00202 | 0.001    |
| Argon-41   | 2130     | Nil      | Nil     | Nil      |

*Sizewell B*

|                         |          |          |         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Noble gases             | 3.05     | —        | 2.87    | 3.92     |
| Halogens                | 5.33E-04 | 3.75E-06 | —       | —        |
| Beta <sup>1</sup>       | 4.52E-05 | 5.00E-06 | 7.0E-06 | 5.00E-06 |
| Tritium                 | 1.23     | 1.18     | 0.598   | 0.714    |
| Carbon-14               | 0.169    | 0.295    | 0.333   | 0.297    |
| Iodine-131 <sup>1</sup> | —        | 1.90E-05 | 3.6E-05 | 2.1E-04  |

*Torness*

|                   |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beta <sup>1</sup> | 4.22E-06 | 3.34E-06 | 3.41E-06 | 5.57E-06 |
| Tritium           | 1.91     | 2.62     | 1.60     | 1.44     |
| Carbon-14         | 0.688    | 0.880    | 0.841    | 1.07     |
| Sulphur-35        | 0.0136   | 0.00873  | 0.00595  | 0.0097   |
| Argon-41          | 3.76     | 5.45     | 4.27     | 4.90     |
| Iodine-131        | —        | 2.21E-06 | 2.08E-06 | 2.83E-06 |

*Trawsfynydd*

|           |          |          |         |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Beta      | 2.69E-07 | 3.94E-07 | 5.0E-07 | 6.85E-07 |
| Tritium   | 0.11     | 0.12     | 0.0959  | 0.0727   |
| Carbon-14 | 0.00296  | 0.00274  | 0.00213 | 0.00227  |

*Wylfa*

|            |          |          |          |          |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beta       | 3.69E-05 | 4.84E-05 | 3.39E-05 | 4.22E-05 |
| Tritium    | 2.65     | 2.78     | 2.63     | 2.86     |
| Carbon-14  | 1.28     | 1        | 1.49     | 1.42     |
| Sulphur-35 | 0.161    | 0.13     | 0.154    | 0.172    |



| Site name/<br>radioactivity | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Argon 41                    | 14.8 | 14.4 | 22   | 17.9 |

TBq = Terabecquerel—the international system unit of activity of a radionuclide.

<sup>1</sup> Particulate activity

<sup>2</sup> Not reported after 31 March 2007

<sup>3</sup> Not reported prior to 1 April 2007

<sup>4</sup> Not reported prior to 1 June 2007

Note:

Beta particles are high-energy, high-speed electrons or positrons emitted by certain types of radioactive nuclei. The beta particles emitted are a form of ionizing radiation also known as beta rays.

Source:

Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 2006-09

TBq = Terabecquerel—the international system unit of activity of a radionuclide.

<sup>1</sup> Particulate activity

<sup>2</sup> Not reported after 31 March 2007

<sup>3</sup> Not reported prior to 1 April 2007

<sup>4</sup> Not reported prior to 1 June 2007

Note:

Beta particles are high-energy, high-speed electrons or positrons emitted by certain types of radioactive nuclei. The beta particles emitted are a form of ionizing radiation also known as beta rays.

Source:

Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 2006-09

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what minimum efficiency standards his Department has set for solar photovoltaic projects to qualify for subsidy. [41309]

**Gregory Barker:** FITs—feed-in-tariffs—reward generators in proportion to the amount of electricity generated so there is a strong economic incentive to use efficient equipment and to site the installation optimally.

A requirement of feed-in tariffs is that installations under 50 kW, including solar photovoltaics, must use installers and products accredited under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), or equivalent, to be eligible for FITs. MCS gives assurances about likely quality, durability and performance of installations. Solar photovoltaic installations of more than 50 kW are accredited by Ofgem under a process similar to the renewables obligation.

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaic energy vary by latitude. [41310]

**Gregory Barker:** No. Under the feed-in tariffs scheme, tariff levels were set through consideration of the technology costs and electricity generation expectations at different scales. The tariffs were set to deliver an approximate rate of return of 5-8% for well sited installations.

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the variation in (a) efficiency of and (b) payback periods for investment in solar photovoltaic energy by latitude within the UK. [41311]

**Gregory Barker:** Under the feed-in tariff (FITs) scheme, tariff levels were set through consideration of the technology cost and electricity generation expectations at different

scales. The tariffs were set to deliver an approximate rate of return 5-8% for well-sited installations.

Reference installation was based on 850kWhr/kWp per year for well-orientated UK PV installations—see 'Quantitative Analysis of the Design of the Feed-in Tariffs' at:

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec\\_financial/elec\\_financial.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx)

### HEALTH

#### Blood: Donors

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the (a) number, (b) number per 1,000 head of population and (c) proportion of people who gave blood in each age decile for each of the last five years; [40841]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of blood donors per 1,000 head of population in each ethnic group in each of the last five years; [40845]

(3) how many blood donors there were in each year for which figures are available; [41045]

(4) how many blood donors of each (a) age group, (b) sex, (c) socio-economic group and (d) blood type there are in each region. [41126]

**Anne Milton:** The information has been placed in the Library.

#### Children: Television

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on the potential effects of television viewing on the (i) metabolic rates and (ii) long-term health of children. [40842]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has not commissioned research specifically on the potential effects of television viewing on the metabolic rates and long-term health of children.

In 2009, the Department set up an expert group to review existing evidence on the impact of sedentary behaviour, including screen time on overweight and obesity, and the impact on health and activity levels. The group has drawn up draft recommendations on sedentary activities for all ages. These will be included in updated Chief Medical Officer guidelines on physical activity, expected in spring 2011.

#### Cockermouth Community Hospital

**Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the rebuilding of Cockermouth community health hospital; and on what date he expects construction to begin. [40648]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department supports the national health service in realising the potential of community services and recognises the health and wider benefits community hospitals can bring to the local population. However, the re-development of the Cockermouth community hospital is a matter for the local NHS in Cumbria. Cumbria primary care trust can advise on the current position of the development.

### Dentistry: Qualifications

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to equalise the position of British and foreign citizens seeking to obtain access to discretionary recognition of qualifications for dental care professions; and if he will make a statement.

[40809]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We sympathise with dental care professionals whose qualifications have not been approved by the General Dental Council (GDC), but any extension of the limited powers the GDC has for discretionary recognition of qualifications would have significant resource implications for the council. It would be preferable if these dental care professionals had the opportunity to undergo additional training to meet the standards set by the GDC.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year.

[40527]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department offsets the carbon emissions resulting from our business air travel by contributing to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). The GCOF aims to fulfil the Government's commitment to offset emissions attributable to all official and ministerial air travel in central Government. It is available to all central Government Departments and provides a simple and cost-effective way to offset, as well as ensuring high environmental integrity.

For the last three years, the Department paid:

|         | £     |
|---------|-------|
| 2007-08 | 9,099 |
| 2008-09 | 9,117 |
| 2009-10 | £0    |

Payments were made to Trading Emissions plc.

### Food: Additives

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of providing routine screening for food intolerances to children from an early age.

[41276]

**Anne Milton:** The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, it assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria.

The UK NSC regularly reviews policy on screening for different conditions in the light of new research evidence becoming available. Where stakeholders of the UK NSC feel that there is enough evidence published in peer reviewed journals to consider screening for a condition

they can submit a policy proposal to the UK NSC. Further information is available on the UK NSC's website at:

<http://www.screening.nhs.uk/policyreview>

### Food: Hygiene

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many local authorities have launched the Food Standards Agency national food hygiene rating scheme recommended in Lord Young's report, "Common Sense, Common Safety";

[41201]

(2) what progress has been made by the Food Standards Agency in rolling out a national food hygiene rating scheme across local authorities as recommended in Lord Young's report, "Common Sense, Common Safety";

[41202]

(3) whether the Food Standards Agency has launched the web-based database for local authorities to publish results of food hygiene rating scheme inspections recommended in Lord Young's report, "Common Sense, Common Safety".

[41208]

**Anne Milton:** The online search facility for the national food hygiene rating scheme being introduced by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) went live on 1 October 2010.

The scheme was launched formally on 30 November 2010 and, to date, 47 local authorities have started to roll it out in their areas and are publishing ratings online. This includes 28 in England, 18 in Wales and one in Northern Ireland. By the end of June, it is anticipated that around 40% of local authorities in England, all local authorities in Wales and around 70% of those in Northern Ireland will be operating the scheme.

The FSA is encouraging and supporting as many more local authorities as possible to adopt the scheme.

### General Practitioners: Equality

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP consortia will be subject to the general duties of the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.

[41261]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill will amend the Equality Act 2010 to include commissioning consortia. Consortia will therefore be subject to the general duties under the Equality Act 2010.

### Genito-urinary Medicine

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that relevant commissioning expertise will be available for the provision of integrated sexual health services by local authorities following implementation of his proposed public health reforms.

[40487]

**Anne Milton:** On 21 December 2010, we published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

The consultation makes proposals about the role of local authorities (LAs) in commissioning comprehensive open-access sexual health services using funds from the ring-fenced public health budget.

The ring-fenced public health grant will fund LAs to commission the integrated sexual health services they are responsible for. This means that it will fund those functions that are necessary for LAs to deliver their new public health responsibilities, including relevant commissioning expertise. These proposals are currently subject to consultation which closes on 31 March.

In addition, a new sexual health strategy to be published this year will set the broad future direction and priorities for sexual health.

### Health

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the impartiality of decision-making within local authorities in delivering public health commissioning. [40488]

**Anne Milton:** As set out in the public health White Paper "healthy Lives, healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England", directors of public health are to be employed in upper-tier councils and unitary authorities to lead local public health efforts and will play the leading role in discharging local authorities' public health functions.

Directors of public health will be a statutory member alongside general practitioner commissioning consortia, local HealthWatch and other key partners on health and well-being boards and as part of the local authority will play a key role in preparing the joint strategic needs assessment which will need to paint an objective picture of the health and social care needs of the local population. The needs assessments will provide the basis for developing a joint health and well-being strategy, outlining how health and social care commissioners can meet the needs identified and should provide the overarching framework for local commissioning plans.

Local democratic accountability to their local health populations, joint strategic working with other key partners and the focus on health outcomes aims to facilitate an impartial and objective approach to public health commissioning.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department uses measures of health and well-being that involve self-reporting by individuals. [40628]

**Anne Milton:** Self-reported measures of health and well-being are periodically included in a number of population-based surveys. The findings are used by the Department in developing and monitoring policy.

The most frequently used measures on health and wellbeing are:

General health and longstanding illness. These are primarily established by means of two main questions:

How is your health in general? Would you say it was: very good/good/fair/bad/very bad?

Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? Yes or no?

Both of these questions have been included each year in both the General Lifestyle Survey (previously known as the General Household Survey) and the Health Survey for England.

EQ5D. Five questions aim to establish the respondent's general state of health and quality of life. In selected years, this has been included in the Health Survey for England.

GHQ—12 questions aim to establish whether the respondent has any mental health issues. In selected years, this has been included in the Health Survey for England.

Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Score (WEMWBS). 14 questions aim to assess the respondent's mental and overall wellbeing. This was included for the first time in the 2010 Health Survey for England and will also be included in the 2011 survey.

A list of the questions included in the final three measures have been placed in the Library.

The findings of the both the General Lifestyle Survey:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=5756](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=5756)

and the Health Survey for England:

[www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles-related-surveys/health-survey-for-england](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles-related-surveys/health-survey-for-england)

are published online and are publicly available.

### Health Services: Competition

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that competition in the health sector is based on the quality of the supplier; and if he will make a statement. [40860]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In the new national health service, competition between providers will be a means, not an end, to empower patients and staff, drive up responsiveness, outcome, improved quality and efficiency.

Our aim is for services to be commissioned from the best provider(s) whether from the public, private or voluntary sector and for patients to have greater choice and control over their care.

### Hospitals: Food

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to encourage hospitals to comply with the Government Buying Standards for the public procurement of food and food services. [40836]

**Anne Milton:** "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12", published on 15 December 2010, makes it clear that national health service organisations are encouraged to consider the Government Buying Standards for food and catering when they are introduced at the end of March 2011.

### Hull and East Riding NHS Stop Smoking Service: Correspondence

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many unsolicited letters the Hull and East Riding NHS Stop Smoking Service has sent; and what the cost to the public purse, including postage, of sending such letters was; [41084]



(2) whether the Hull and East Riding NHS Stop Smoking Service attempted to ensure that the recent letters it sent were not addressed to non-smokers. [41163]

**Anne Milton:** Priorities are set by local national health service Stop Smoking services for their own local population. This is a matter for the City Health Care Partnership (CHCP), which runs the Hull and East Riding NHS Stop Smoking Service on behalf of Hull Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) and East Riding of Yorkshire PCT. I understand that my hon. Friend has already been in contact with the CHCP about this matter.

### Meat: Hygiene

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimates he has made of the cost to the livestock industry in Wales of implementation of the Food Standard Agency's proposals for full cost recovery of meat hygiene controls; [40819]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the Food Standard Agency's plans for full cost recovery of meat hygiene controls at slaughterhouses on small and medium-sized abattoirs in Wales. [40820]

**Anne Milton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has consulted across the United Kingdom on proposals for full cost recovery by removal of current discounts, with options for a phased introduction and a reduction in charges for low throughput businesses, and is committed to reducing its own costs.

I am advised that on the basis of the information available prior to the consultation, the FSA estimated that full cost recovery for meat controls would cost the Welsh meat industry approximately £2.2 million. In the draft impact assessment, the FSA has assumed that slaughterhouses will absorb approximately one-third of the cost associated with full recovery charging and farmers the remaining two-thirds. On this basis the FSA estimates that slaughterhouses, including low throughput establishments, will absorb approximately £0.73 million of the cost, and pass on £1.47 million to the livestock industry in Wales. The FSA will refine the impact assessment in light of information received in responses to the consultation.

139 consultation responses have been received across UK, 20 in Wales, including 11 from Welsh slaughterhouses of varying sizes, and FSA is in the process of considering all responses prior to determining its advice to Government.

*Note:*

The FSA impact assessment has been published on the FSA website at:

<http://food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/consultation/meatcharges1110eng.pdf>

### Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Minister of State's contribution on 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 327WH, on myalgic encephalomyelitis, what recent representations his Department has received on the definition of CFS/ME. [41259]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department has received, and continues to receive, a large volume of correspondence from stakeholders, and those living with this condition, on the definition and naming of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

During the Westminster Hall debate, on 4 February 2011, I said that the World Health Organisation uses the composite term CFS/ME for this condition. This was incorrect.

The World Health Organisation classes benign myalgic encephalomyelitis and post viral fatigue syndrome under the same classification G93.3 'diseases of the nervous system'; subheading 'other disorders of the brain'.

The report of the CFS/ME Working Group to the Chief Medical Officer, in January in 2002, suggested that the composite term CFS/ME be used as an umbrella term for this condition, or spectrum of disease. This term is also used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for their clinical guidelines.

We do, however, intend to seek further advice on our classification and will update the hon. Member in due course.

### NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to clause 262 of the Health and Social Care Bill, whether the functions of the NHS Institute will be incorporated into the Commissioning Board; and if he will make a statement. [40496]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department's "Liberating the NHS: Report of the arm's length bodies review" (published 26 July 2010) looked to reduce bureaucracy and improve efficiency by better aligning the arm's length bodies (ALBs) sector with the rest of the health and social care system. This is available at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_117691](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117691)

The review found, in assessing the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement's current form and functions, that it did not satisfy the criteria to remain as an ALB, as set out in the report.

It was therefore decided to abolish the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement as an ALB. The Department is engaging with the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement to review and evaluate its remaining functions, with a view to determining whether opportunities exist for alternative commercial delivery models, and whether or not to stop providing for certain functions altogether.

The Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament provides for the NHS Commissioning Board to have a duty, in exercising its functions, to promote innovation in both the provision of health services and approaches to commissioning them. This will enable the NHS Commissioning Board to promote innovation as part of its role in providing national leadership for quality improvement in the national health service.

### NHS Outcomes Framework

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include indicators on the incidence of fragility fractures in older people in (a) the NHS Outcomes Framework and (b) the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework. [41280]

**Paul Burstow:** On 20 December 2010, we published 'The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12', which will measure the overall progress of the national health service in delivering better health outcomes for patients.

In the Framework, 'Domain 3: Helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury', there is an improvement area which focuses on 'improving recovery from fragility fractures'. The indicator 'The proportion of patients recovering to their previous levels of mobility/walking ability at (i) 30 days and (ii) 120 days'.

This indicator is replicated in the draft Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework to help align the unique contributions that the NHS and adult social care have in delivering outcomes for fragility fractures in older people.

The draft Framework, on which we consulted from 16 November to 9 February 2011, also includes the indicator 'the number of emergency hospital admissions for people aged 65 and older as a result of falls and injuries', which is also relevant to improving outcomes for fragility fractures.

As with all measures in the draft Framework, inclusion in the final Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework for 2011/12 is subject to the level of support received via the consultation from councils, people using the services and their carers, providers, user-led organisations and others. We will publish a consultation response this spring setting out what people have said and how we have reflected this in the final Framework; as well as in our broader proposals to bring transparency to social care quality and outcomes.

#### NHS: Drugs

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Pudsey of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 468W, on the NHS: drugs, if he will assess (a) the effectiveness of the unwanted and wasted medicines campaign run by Brighton and Hove link and (b) the potential of such campaigns to reduce (i) the quantity of wasted medicines and (ii) the dangers such drugs pose; and if he will make a statement. [40673]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We take the issue of waste medicines very seriously. Local initiatives such as the one run by Brighton and Hove local involvement network, can play an important part in raising awareness of the issue of waste medicines with local populations and health care professionals.

The Department commissioned the York Health Economics Consortium and the School of Pharmacy at the University of London to carry out research to determine the scale, causes and cost of waste medicines in England. The report, 'Evaluation of the Scale, Causes and Costs of Waste Medicines', was published by the researchers on 23 November 2010.

The Department and key interested parties took part in a round table event hosted by the King's Fund on 20 January 2011 to discuss possible actions that could be taken forward either nationally or locally. Local initiatives, such as the one in Brighton, will help to inform our future work programme on reducing waste and improving health outcomes.

#### NHS: Market Research

**Iain Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each (a) primary care trust and (b) strategic health authority spent on market research and opinion polling in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of such expenditure in 2010-11. [40957]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is not held centrally.

#### NHS: Pensions

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports his Department has received from former NHS employees about administrative errors associated with the processing of their pension in the last five years. [40962]

**Mr Simon Burns:** NHS Pensions, the administrators of the NHS pension scheme, received enquiries from former national health service employees about the non payment of interest where it was due under the scheme regulations. An administrative exercise was undertaken to trawl and pay interest to members for all cases where it was due.

#### NHS: Private Sector

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consideration he has given to allowing private health providers to take ownership of NHS property under his proposals for NHS reform; and if he will make a statement; [40494]

(2) what consideration he has given to the transferral of NHS property to private health providers under his proposals for NHS reform; and if he will make a statement. [40495]

**Mr Simon Burns:** On 6 January 2011, the Department announced that the primary care trust-owned estate that is required to deliver the commissioned services will be made available to first and second wave aspirant community foundation trusts. The Department is currently examining the implications for the management and ownership of the remaining estate following the dissolution of primary care trusts in 2013. An announcement will be made when this has been completed.

The acute sector estate is owned by foundation and national health service trusts. The White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" proposes that the latter will become foundation trusts by 2013-14. These reforms will not otherwise affect the property holding arrangements in the NHS acute sector.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any limit will be imposed on the amount of private income a foundation trust can earn as a proportion of its overall income under his proposals for NHS reform; and if he will make a statement. [40497]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government have decided to use the Bill to remove the private patient cap, which is both arbitrary and unfair in its effects: giving extensive freedoms to some trusts and imposing tight constraints on others, based solely on the historical accident of how

much private income they earned in 2002-03. The Government are not persuaded that there is a case for imposing a new limit in the Bill on the amount of private income a foundation trust can earn as a proportion of its overall income. The Bill would not change a foundation trust's principal purpose of providing goods and services for the purposes of the national health service in England.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that NHS patients do not wait longer for treatment as result of the removal of the private income cap for foundation trusts; and if he will make a statement. [40501]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There is no reason to believe that removing the cap would disadvantage national health service patients. A foundation trust's principal purpose will remain the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the NHS. The Bill proposes reforms that would strengthen a foundation trust's governance arrangements. It would ensure greater transparency and accountability to enable the governors and members to ensure that a foundation trust is managed in the best interests of the public and its NHS patients.

#### NHS: Reorganisation

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely status of the NHS as a protected state service under the relevant European directives under his proposals for NHS reform. [40657]

**Anne Milton:** As we develop the national health service reform proposals we are assessing where European Union law will have an impact and what the position will be with respect to a health system that will remain funded by the taxpayer and providing universal coverage, free at the point of need.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he will ensure that his Department's proposals for health and social care reform will not create a risk of loss of financial control; and if he will make a statement. [40861]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The maintenance of financial control during transition and the effective design of financial control in the new health landscape will remain a key objective as we implement the health reforms.

The NHS Operating Framework 2011/12, published on 15 December 2010, outlines the business and planning arrangements for the national health service over the transition year 2011-12. It describes the national priorities, system levers and enablers needed to build strong foundations set out in "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", and to maintain and improve quality, while keeping tight financial control and delivering the quality and productivity challenge at a time of significant change.

The Operating Framework sets out how tight financial control will be maintained during 2011-12. Primary care trusts will continue to be required to invest 2% of their budgets non-recurrently in order to create financial flexibility and headroom to support change. The marginal rate of tariff payment for emergency admissions above baseline thresholds will be maintained, incentivising

commissioners and providers to work together in an area that is critical to delivering local quality, innovation, productivity and prevention plans. These measures are critical for ensuring that the NHS maintains a strong financial position, to get the new system on the right footing from the outset.

#### NHS: Standards

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what safeguards he plans to put in place to maintain quality of care in the NHS in the light of cost pressures; and if he will make a statement. [40500]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Operating Framework for the NHS in England set out the Department's plans for maintaining and improving the quality of care. Specifically, it says (paragraph 4.3, page 31) that

"as part of this NHS Operating Framework, we have developed a list of key indicators against which PCTs and clusters will be held to account during 2011-12. The list is included as an annex to this NHS Operating Framework and brings together key performance indicators to support quality, innovation, productivity and prevention efficiencies; indicators relating to new commitments and reform; and clinically relevant indicators from existing measures".

A copy of the Framework has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_122736.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122736.pdf)

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of maintaining process targets which have a relationship to health outcomes; and if he will make a statement. [40859]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out how the Government would introduce a new system of accountability for the national health service based around the outcomes achieved for patients. As part of this, the first ever NHS Outcomes Framework was published on 20 December 2010. This framework will be used by the Secretary of State to hold the proposed NHS Commissioning Board to account for its role in overseeing the commissioning of NHS services.

It will be for the NHS Commissioning Board to translate the national outcomes into outcomes and indicators that are meaningful at a local level, and it may choose to include process measures in the tools and levers it will have its disposal. Putting in place the right processes of care is critical to securing improved outcomes. However, these should be determined by expert bodies and healthcare professionals rather than politicians. In line with this, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have begun building a broad library of quality standards which will set out the processes and structures of care that should be put in place for a particular care pathway in order to achieve high quality outcomes.

#### Nurses: Pay

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the public sector pay freeze on the payment of annual increments to NHS nurses who earn less than £21,000 per annum. [40716]



**Mr Simon Burns:** The starting pay for a qualified nurse is £21,176 per annum full time equivalent.

There is currently no national freeze on incremental progression although there have been discussions between national health service employers and NHS trade unions on a National Enabling Framework to support local agreements to guarantee no compulsory redundancies in return for suspending incremental payments.

#### Patient Choice Schemes

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that patient choice will continue to be determined on the basis of clinical need rather than price or competition law under his proposals for NHS reform; and if he will make a statement. [40498]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The decision to refer a patient for national health service treatment is a clinical one and will remain so. Services will be commissioned according to the clinical needs of the population, but in a way which allows service users appropriate choice of treatment and provider.

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the implications for patient choice are of lifting the competition exemption for the NHS under EU requirements; and if he will make a statement. [40499]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The use of competition in the national health service is not about establishing normal commercial markets under price competition, and competition is not an end in itself.

The Government are focusing on using competition to enhance quality and choice in the system, in most instances using NHS tariff or pricing arrangements. For some services, where the delivery of care is essential (e.g. rural ambulance and emergency), competition will be more limited—if it exists at all.

Our aim is for services to be commissioned from the providers who are best placed to deliver the needs of their patients and populations. Commissioners and providers should also ensure that patients have accurate and reliable information, so that they can exercise more choice and control over their health care.

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanism patients will be able to choose any health-care provider under his proposals for GP commissioning. [40656]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We expect the ability of patients to choose services to be extended through the introduction of any willing provider as part of the implementation of the Government's proposals on choice. The NHS Commissioning Board will have overall responsibility for ensuring that commissioning consortia deliver a choice of provider. Further details of how the choice offer will develop will be given in the response to the choice consultation in the spring.

#### Post-natal Depression

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of mothers who suffered from a post-natal mental health problem

as a proportion of the number of live births in each year since 2000. [37850]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of mothers who suffered from a post-natal mental health problem as a proportion of the number of live births in each year since 2000. (37850)

The Office for National Statistics does not hold the information requested.

#### Prostate Cancer

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the report prepared for his Department, "One to one support for cancer patients", what steps he is taking to address the gap in the provision of one to one support workers for men with prostate cancer identified in the report; [41094]

(2) what steps he is taking to implement the national clinical audit of prostate cancer referred to in Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer. [41137]

**Paul Burstow:** "One to one support for cancer patients" shows that, in many scenarios, the savings that can be achieved through improved co-ordination of care can outweigh the costs of dedicated support roles. These savings include reductions in emergency bed days, reductions in routine follow-up appointments, and reductions in general practitioner visits.

The findings of the report are intended to assist local decision making and support the continued expansion in one to one support for all cancer patients, including those with prostate cancer. It is for local national health service organisations to decide whether to invest in new one to one support roles, and we have welcomed the recent announcement by Macmillan Cancer Support that they will invest up £300 million to pump prime additional one to one support posts over the next seven to 10 years.

We will build on "One to one support for cancer Patients" to provide further evidence to support the NHS to develop new one to one support posts. We will highlight issues that service providers and commissioners need to consider as part of work force planning.

Regarding the implementation of a prostate cancer audit, a process to select topics for an extended national clinical audit and patient outcomes programme will begin shortly. We will consult widely and consider all representations before decisions are taken in the autumn.

#### Schizophrenia

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the number of diagnosed schizophrenics of each (a) age group and (b) sex there were in each region in each of the last 30 years. [41127]

**Paul Burstow:** We do not collect this information centrally. However, the "Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007" survey does contain some of the information requested. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Adult Education

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his review of informal adult learning will include consideration of (a) the transparency of and (b) mechanisms for allocating funding for informal adult and community learning. [39601]

**Mr Hayes:** In November 2010, "Skills for Sustainable Growth" announced that the adult safeguarded learning budget of £210 million per annum for informal adult and community learning would be protected and that informal adult and community learning would be reformed in order to:

help build the big society, through learning for personal development, mental/physical health, digital inclusion, democratic engagement, family learning etc.

engage and motivate disadvantaged groups and create progression pathways towards the wider learning continuum, including skills-focused learning and employment.

Over the coming months BIS will hold a series of policy round table meetings, including one with a specific focus on funding. We will work closely with a wide range of partners, including representative bodies, local authorities, colleges and other learning providers to consider how to address historical funding imbalances and how best to fund informal adult and community learning in future.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether local authority adult community education services will be exempt from the Skills Funding Agency's minimum contract value proposals; [39603]

(2) whether local authority adult community education services will be exempt from the Skills Funding Agency's minimum contact value arrangements. [40926]

**Mr Hayes:** We announced in "Investing Skills for Sustainable Growth" in November 2010 that a minimum contract level (MCL) was being introduced for the 2011/12 academic year as part of our commitment to create a streamlined and more efficient FE system. In an environment of declining budgets, it has become increasingly difficult for small providers to operate without realising the efficiencies of shared services or economies of scale through collaboration or subcontracting. The Skills Funding Agency also needs to become more efficient and streamlined.

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) published Guidance Note 6<sup>1</sup> (16 December 2010), which gives further detail on the implementation of a minimum contract level (MCL) for the 2011/12 academic year. Guidance Note 6 provides a list of the types of college/training organisation/ employer that would be exempt from the application of the MCL due to the specific nature of the contractual relationships that the SFA has with them. Local authorities are not automatically exempt from the introduction of the MCL.

Where there is a risk of specialist provision being lost, or a significant impact on the choice available in

particular localities, for example, in rural communities, the agency will consider whether alternative arrangements should be made.

<sup>1</sup> Available at:

[http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/skills\\_funding\\_agency\\_-\\_guidance\\_note\\_6\\_final\\_-\\_v2\\_.pdf](http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/skills_funding_agency_-_guidance_note_6_final_-_v2_.pdf)

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the process of reviewing and reinvigorating informal adult learning will include a review of the funding process for informal adult and community learning. [40927]

**Mr Hayes:** In November 2010, "Skills for Sustainable Growth" announced that we would protect the Adult Safeguarded Learning budget of £210 million per annum for informal adult and community learning and that we would re-invigorate and reform informal adult and community learning to support the big society and to foster learning and progression for individuals, families and communities. Over the coming months we will work closely with partners to consider how public funding can be refocused and reprioritised for the people who need the most help and have had the fewest opportunities.

I refer my hon. Friend to his question tabled on 7 February 2011 (39061) which I answered today.

### Citizens Advice Bureaux

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the future of citizens advice bureaux. [41032]

**Mr Davey:** Government value highly the work of the citizens advice service but funding for citizens advice bureaux is not a matter for central Government but for local authorities who are better able to determine the structure and level of funding of advice services in their area which meets local needs. The Government do not, however, expect local authorities to respond to this freedom by passing on disproportionate cuts to other service providers, especially the voluntary sector.

Due to concerns raised by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Jack Dromey) about funding decisions by Birmingham city council and the threat that decision might pose to the sustainability of the local citizens advice bureaux, I addressed those concerns and the Government's response in an adjournment debate in Westminster Hall on 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 129WH.

### Citizens Advice: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much central Government funding has been allocated to Citizens Advice in each of the last five years. [40365]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) provides core grant in aid funding to Citizens Advice (CitA), the umbrella body for the Citizens Advice Service in England and Wales, and to Citizens Advice Scotland. Core funding for the individual citizen advice bureaux is typically provided by their local authority, not central Government.

Over previous years BIS has also provided programme funding to Citizens Advice under the financial inclusion fund (for face to face debt advice project) and to both Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland under the additional hours of advice (AHA) project. BIS also committed in the last spending review (SR07) to provide programme funding to Citizens Advice Scotland to aid in the development and roll-out of a case recording system (CASTLE) to be used across the bureaux network in Scotland.

| Citizens advice funding |                  |                          |                          | £             |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|                         | BIS core funding | Financial inclusion fund | Additional hours project | Total         |
| 2009/10                 | 21,470,000       | 18,579,000               | 7,500,000                | 47,549,000.00 |
| 2008/09                 | 21,470,000       | 17,949,000               | 2,500,000                | 41,919,000    |
| 2007/08                 | 21,470,000       | 13,071,000               | —                        | 34,541,000    |
| 2006/07                 | 21,470,000       | 15,443,000               | —                        | 36,913,000    |
| 2005/06                 | 23,605,000       | —                        | —                        | 23,605,000    |

| Citizens advice Scotland |                   |                |                                        | £         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|
|                          | Core grant in aid | CASTLE project | Additional hours/credit crunch project | Total     |
| 2009/10                  | 3,124,000         | 238,000        | —                                      | 3,362,000 |
| 2008/09                  | 3,018,000         | 371,000        | —                                      | 3,389,000 |
| 2007/08                  | 2,916,000         | 100,000        | —                                      | 3,016,000 |
| 2006/07                  | 2,916,000         | —              | —                                      | 2,916,000 |
| 2005/06                  | 3,024,000         | —              | —                                      | 3,024,000 |

#### Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps (a) his Department, (b) its agencies and (c) the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31316]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) adheres to applicable guidance published by the Office of Government Commerce.

This Department utilises Buying Solutions and other frameworks where possible. In such cases the responsibility for incorporating such considerations lies with the body responsible for establishing the framework.

BIS' facilities management service partners are contractually required to demonstrate active support to staff to improve their adult basic skills. This must include an initial assessment of staff and where found not to meet the criteria the service partner must make available suitable arrangements for appropriate training to assist them in attaining at least the basic level as part of their individual training plans.

The Government's skills strategy, published on 16 November, set out how BIS will also work with public sector bodies to encourage and support them to use public procurement as a lever to raise employers' engagement with skills and apprenticeships.

I have asked chief executives of the executive agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 15 December 2010:*

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what steps (a) his Department, (b) its agencies and (c) the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills adheres to current guidance by following Office of Government Commerce (OGC) recommendations, liaising with Buying Solutions specialists. It utilises OGC framework agreements where possible and advertises contracts via the Official Journal of the European Union where the whole-life value of the goods and services mandates this route.

The Insolvency Service is now embedding the Cabinet Office's 'Principles of Good Employment Practice' into its processes. In undertaking procurement activities, our trained procurement staff are mindful of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and are members of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (CIPS).

The Insolvency Service recently contacted all our suppliers of goods and services to encourage them to sign up to the Skills Pledge.

*Letter from Geof Russell, dated 15 December 2010:*

The majority of activity procured by the Skill Funding Agency (the Agency) is for education and vocational training rather than the provision of goods and services. All procurement of this activity will in future be undertaken through the Agency's Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR). Through this process the Agency ensures that providers that hold Agency contracts are committed to developing the skills of their staff. This includes monitoring those organisations that have Investors in People or the Training Quality Standard (TQS). Through the procurement process the Agency ensures that organisations use skilled staff for the delivery of education and training and commit to the continuous professional development of their staff. Furthermore, all trainers, verifiers and guidance suppliers are required to have formal qualifications, in order to practise.

In terms of the procurement of goods and service provision the Agency uses collaborative procurement where possible. These are purchased through pan-government frameworks, where the evaluation criteria (and all references to skills requirements, provision of apprenticeship places, and contract terms and conditions) are actually set by other public sector bodies.

Where the Agency does issue bespoke tenders, the goods and services tendering documentation has been updated to encourage its suppliers to support developing the skills of their staff, and where relevant, the use of Apprenticeships. The need to embed skills and Apprenticeships is considered separately for each procurement and, where relevant, the wording and evaluation criteria are strengthened.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 19 January 2011:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15 December 2010, asking the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps (b) its Agencies and (c) the non departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009.

NMO takes OGC Guidance into account when carrying out its procurement activities and in its most recent large procurement exercise, the first since this particular guidance was issued, bidders were explicitly scored on the extent to which they had a formal training plan for the development of their workforce.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 24 January 2011:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 13 December 2010, UIN 31316 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.



Companies House's contracts are awarded in accordance with all relevant procurement legislation but, because of the nature of our business requirements, there are very few services for which we contract where promoting apprenticeships are applicable.

However, we have made full use of apprentice resource as part of our current Building Maintenance Contract.

*Letter from John Alty, dated 10 February 2011:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled 13 December 2010, asking the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, what steps (b) its agencies and (c) the non departmental public bodies for which he/she is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009.

In line with central government guidance, the IPO use collaborative framework arrangements for goods and services wherever possible, and in these instances the supplier selection (and other evaluation) criteria are decided upon by other public sector organisations when setting up the framework. Where the IPO issue bespoke tender requirements, our documentation will reflect the guidance by promoting skills and apprenticeships where relevant to the requirement. We have also specifically addressed this as part of our overall procurement strategy, along with other corporate social responsibility obligations.

#### Employment Schemes

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which colleges he expects to participate in the job outcome pilot scheme in 2011-12 [41140]

(2) whether funding for job outcome pilot schemes will be ring-fenced in the 2011-12 academic year; [41141]

(3) how many people he expects to participate in the job outcomes pilot scheme in academic year 2011-12; [41143]

(4) whether the funding allocated to colleges under the job outcomes scheme will be dependent on participants entering employment after training. [41144]

**Mr Hayes:** As outlined in 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', as part of our approach to simplifying the system, while ensuring it continues to deliver more for individuals and employers, we are introducing outcome incentive payments. In the 2011/12 academic year the Skills Funding Agency will trial this approach through the introduction of a job outcome payment. I have asked the chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency to write to you to provide you with further details about this pilot with a copy of the responses being placed in the House.

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the operation of the job outcome pilot scheme in the 2011-12 academic year; [41142]

(2) what discussions (a) he and (b) his Department have had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the implications of the job outcomes scheme pilot for that Department's consultation on skills conditionality. [41145]

**Mr Hayes:** We have been working closely with both the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus on the operation of job outcome incentive payments. Both have welcomed the principle of the payments. We

are currently working through the model of how the proposals will operate in the 2011-12 academic year and will have detailed discussions as the proposals develop.

The Skills Conditionality consultation (which was a joint consultation led by both BIS and DWP) closed on 3 February. Both Departments are currently working through the responses and, following the publication of the Government's response to the consultation, will be continuing to engage with the sector (including colleges and training providers) as we work up detailed proposals for implementation.

#### Employment Schemes: Further Education

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he plans to allocate to colleges for the purposes of providing training for those who have been out of work for six months or more in the 2011-12 academic year. [41139]

**Mr Hayes:** As set out in Investing in 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' on 16 November 2010 the total Skills Funding Agency programme budget will be £3.4 billion in 2011-12 financial year.

As a part of the spending review we have had to look hard at the rationale for funding adult skills training and have been clear that we must do all that we can to support people enter the labour market. This is why full funding will be focused on people who are actively seeking work—recipients of jobseekers allowance (JSA) or employment support allowance (Work Related Activity Group; ESA (WRAG)).

It is not for us to attempt to plan the delivery of further education and skills from the top down. Instead, our simplification agenda will set colleges and training organisations free to respond to local need, giving Jobcentre Plus and employers a key role in shaping both the volume and content of provision for this group. We expect that the availability of fee remission for those on JSA or ESA (WRAG) will itself make them attractive group for colleges and training organisations. In addition we announced in the Skills Investment Strategy plans to incentivise delivery of training for people who are unemployed through the piloting of new job outcome payments for FE colleges and training organisations.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1272-strategy-investing-in-skills-for-sustainable-growth.pdf>

#### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether higher education institutions charging more than £6,000 tuition fees for degree courses from 2012 will be required to join the National Scholarship scheme. [40146]

**Mr Willetts:** All universities that want to charge a graduate contribution above £6,000 will be obliged to participate in the National Scholarship Programme (NSP). Broad details were announced on Thursday 10 February and information was placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether all higher education institutions charging more than £6,000 in annual tuition

fees will be eligible to join the National Scholarship scheme from 2012. [40212]

**Mr Willetts:** Yes. All higher education institutions, whatever they charge, will be eligible to join the National Scholarship Programme, and those that want to charge above the £6,000 threshold will be obliged to participate.

#### Higher Education: Disadvantaged

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the purpose is of the access performance indicators identified in paragraph 6.1 of the guidance to the Director of Fair Access; and what the definition is of (a) lower socio-economic classes and (b) low-participation neighbourhoods. [41318]

**Mr Willetts:** Following the recommendations of the National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education, the Government asked the funding councils to develop suitable indicators and benchmarks of performance in the higher education sector. The Performance Indicators Steering Group (PISG) was established on behalf of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Membership of the group is drawn from Government Departments, the funding councils and representative bodies. Since 2002/03, the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) has published the Performance Indicators (PIs) HEFCE will continue to further develop the PIs under the auspices of PISG.

The indicators are designed to provide reliable information on the nature and performance of the higher education sector in the UK and a consistent set of measures of this performance. This will contribute to a greater public accountability by the sector, as well as ensure that policy decisions can be made on the basis of consistent and reliable information.

The information on socio-economic classification is taken from the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC). The classifications used are:

1. Higher managerial and professional occupations
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations
3. Intermediate occupations
4. Small employers and own account workers
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations
6. Semi-routine occupations
7. Routine occupations

The performance indicator is the proportion of students from NS-SEC classes 4 to 7 out of those from NS-SEC 1-7.

The low participation neighbourhood indicator has been produced using POLAR2 (Participation of Local Areas). This method is based on the HE participation rates of people who were aged 18 between 2000 and 2004 and entered a HE course in a UK higher education institution or GB further education college, aged 18 or 19, between academic years 2000/01 and 2005/06. It draws on data provided by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, the Learning and Skills Council, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, the other UK funding bodies and HM Revenue and Customs.

The POLAR2 classification is formed by ranking 2001 Census Area Statistics wards by their young participation rates for the combined 2000 to 2004 cohorts. This gives five young participation quintile groups of

areas ordered from '1' (those wards with the lowest participation) to '5' (those wards with the highest participation), each representing 20% of UK young cohort. Students have been allocated to the neighbourhoods on the basis of their postcode. Those students whose postcode falls within wards with the lowest participation (quintile 1) are denoted as being from a low participation neighbourhood.

More information and the latest figures for the Performance Indicators can be found at the following link:

<http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/>

#### Human Rights and Transnational Corporations

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the outcomes were of his meeting with the UN Special Representative on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations on 10 January 2011. [41250]

**Mr Davey:** At our meeting on 10 January, John Ruggie and I discussed the focus of the Department's recent consultation on narrative reporting and the Government's intention to bring forward proposals shortly. Professor Ruggie also updated me on his work in relation to the draft Guiding Principles for the implementation of the UN 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' framework. I conveyed the UK's support for Professor Ruggie's work in relation to this project.

#### National Regional Development Agency Transition Programme Board

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the decision was made to include representatives from One North East, Advantage West Midlands and the East Midlands Development Agency on the National Regional Development Agency Transition Programme Board. [41313]

**Mr Prisk:** A meeting of the regional development agency chief executives selected the chief executives of Advantage West Midlands and East Midlands Development Agency as their representatives on the National Regional Development Agency Transition Board in July 2010. The chief executive of One North East attends as One North East is the current 'Chair of Chairs' (the chief Government liaison) for the RDA network.

#### Pharmaceutical Industry

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he or Ministers of his Department has had with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry since May 2010; with whom in each case; and what the (a) purpose and (b) location of each such meeting was. [39136]

**Mr Willetts:** On 16 June, the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk), attended the BioPharmaceutical Ministerial Industry Strategy Group (MISG), co-chaired alternately by David Brennan of AstraZeneca and the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South

Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley). MISG's purpose is for the Biopharmaceutical Industry and Government to engage on strategic issues. The meeting was held at the Department of Health, Richmond House, Whitehall, London. MISG members are shown in List 1.

On 21 June, I attended the Ministerial Medical Technology Strategy Group (MMTSG). MMTSG's purpose is for the Medical Technology Industry and the Government to engage on strategic issues. The meeting was held at the Department of Health, Richmond House, Whitehall, London. MMTSG members are shown in List 2.

In July 2010, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Hereford Rd, Stortford, (Mr Prisk) and the Under-Secretary of State (Baroness Wilcox) attended a Business Summit for Investors in the UK at Lancaster House which included a round-table meeting at which the following life sciences companies were present: 3M (Garry Stapleton), Amgen (Jeremy Haigh), Genzyme (Steve Bates), Johnson and Johnson (Colin Morgan), Medtronic (Geoff Morris), Pfizer (Alistair Strachan), Quintiles (Andrew Szanto), Sanofi-Aventis (Manjit Rahelu) and Takeda (Steve Coles). The purpose of the summit was to announce the UK's Foreign Direct Investment Results for 2009/10, to highlight the strength of the UK as an investment destination, and for Government to capture strategic investors' views on the UK offer to investors to guide future strategy development.

The Secretary of State led a trade mission to Brazil in September 2010 to promote UK business interests. GSK's Senior Vice President in Latin America, Rogerio Ribeiro (based in Rio) participated.

Baroness Wilcox met with GSK in September to discuss how intellectual property impacts upon the Pharmaceutical sector. Eddie Gray, President, Pharmaceuticals Europe, and Jon Pender, Director of Government Affairs, attended.

In November 2010, the Secretary of State led a trade mission to Russia to promote UK business interests. Michael Crow, GSK's Senior Vice President Russia and Developing Markets Eurasia, participated in the mission. GSK signed an agreement with a company called Binnopharm for the local secondary manufacture of a number of GSK vaccines. The Secretary of State attended the signing, alongside GSK's then Vice President and General Manager for Russia, Fabio Landazabal.

As the Minister responsible for life sciences within BIS, I have had regular contact with representatives of the pharmaceutical sector on a range of issues including on the long-term future for the sector and on related initiatives such as the Healthcare and Life Sciences Growth Review, as well as discussing issues with the recently appointed life sciences business adviser, Chris Brinsmead at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in London.

Specifically, I met representatives of the ABPI (Richard Barker), BIA (Nigel Gaymond), ABHI (Peter Ellingworth) and BIVDA (Doris Ann Williams) in September at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 1 Victoria street, London. The purpose of the meeting was to engage with life sciences industry bodies on strategic

issues which will help maintain the UK as a competitive location for life sciences business and on its future growth potential.

I attended meetings of the Pharmaceutical Ministerial Industry Strategy Group (MISG) and the Ministerial Medical Technology Strategy Group (MMTSG) in November 2010. The meetings were held at the Department of Health, Richmond House, Whitehall, London.

On 15 October, I visited the Pfizer Biotech Packaging Facility at Havant and met Richard Blackburn, Managing Director at Pfizer UK; Jim Neville, Site Lead at Havant; David Bevan, Head of Specialty Care Business Unit UK, and Lou Schmukler, Pfizer Global Senior Vice President Packaging and Manufacturing. The purpose of the visit was to open a state-of-the-art biotechnology packaging facility in which Pfizer invested £26.3 million.

I met Dr Hussein Manji, Global Head of Neuroscience Research at Johnson and Johnson on 23 November 2010 to discuss UK neuroscience research. On 5 November 2010 I met Brad Sauer, Executive Vice President of 3M Healthcare to discuss 3M's healthcare interests in the UK. On 18 January 2011 I met Patrick Vallance, Head of Drug Discovery at GSK to discuss issues relating to research and collaboration.

I met Ian Read, President and CEO of Pfizer on 24 January 2011 at 10 Downing street when Mr Read informed the Government, in confidence, of Pfizer's decision to close its facility at Sandwich.

On 7 February 2011 I visited Pfizer's site at Sandwich. I met Ruth McKernan (Chief Scientific Officer) and various Pfizer employees to discuss the proposed closure of the Pfizer facility.

Also on 7 February 2011, I hosted together with my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality at the Department of Health (Earl Howe), a meeting of the Senior Industry Group (SIG). The SIG forum was established to complement the work of the Ministerial Industry (bio-pharmaceutical) Strategy Group (MISG) and the Ministerial Medical Technology Strategy Group (MMTSG). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Healthcare and Life Sciences Growth Review. The meeting was held at the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, 1 Victoria street, London. Those who attended are shown in List 3.

On 8 February 2011, I hosted a roundtable with Venture Capitalists and Ruth McKernan (chief scientific officer of Pfizer) to discuss the Pfizer site at Sandwich. The meeting was held at the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, 1 Victoria street, London.

On Wednesday 9 February 2011, the Secretary of State and I met representatives of Pfizer as part of a Local Economic Task Force formed in response to Pfizer's decision to close its facility at Sandwich. The meeting included representatives of Kent county council and my hon. Friends, the Members for North Thanet (Mr Gale), South Thanet (Laura Sandys), Canterbury (Mr Brazier), Folkestone and Hythe (Damian Collins) and Dover (Charlie Elphicke).

The Secretary of State met Dr John Lechleiter, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Eli Lilly and Co. Ltd., Ramona Sequeira, Managing Director, Lilly UK and Rick Ascroft, Director of Corporate Affairs, Lilly UK on Thursday 10 February at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, in London to discuss Eli Lilly's interests in the UK.



*List 1: Ministerial (Bio-Pharmaceutical) Industry Strategy Group Membership*

*Government*

Secretary of State for Health (co-chair) (Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP)  
 Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Rt Hon Vince Cable MP)  
 Minister for Universities and Science (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) (Rt Hon David Willetts MP)  
 Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality (Department of Health) (Earl Howe)  
 Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon)

*Members*

David Brennan (co-chair), British Pharma Group (CEO, Astra Zeneca)  
 Richard Barker, ABPI Director General  
 John Young, American Pharma Group and Pfizer Ltd  
 Clive Dix, Chair BioIndustry Association (Chairman, Modern Biosciences plc)  
 Simon Jose, President, ABPI (General Manager and Senior Vice President GSK UK Ltd)  
 Eddie Gray, British Pharma Group, President, Pharma Europe, GlaxoSmithKline  
 William Burns, European Medicines Group, Head of Pharmaceutical International Operations  
 F Hoffman, La Roche  
 Haruo Naito, Japanese Pharma Group, President of Eisai Co. Ltd.

*Joint Secretariat*

Department of Health  
 British Pharma Group

*List 2: Ministerial Medical Technology Strategy Group Membership*

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Co-Chair) (Earl Howe)  
 Minister of State for Universities and Science, Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) (Rt Hon David Willetts MP)

*Industry*

Colin Morgan, Regional Vice President, Johnson and Johnson MDD (Co-Chair)  
 Simon Cartmell, Chairman, Osspray Ltd  
 Bettina Fitt, General Manager, UK and Ireland, GE Healthcare  
 David Plotts, Vice President of Marketing, General Surgery, Covidien  
 Herb Riband, Vice President External Affairs International, Medtronic International  
 Philip Salt, Chief Executive, Salts Healthcare Ltd  
 Gary Stapleton, Vice President EMEA, 3M  
 Doris-Ann Williams, Director General, BIVDA  
 Peter Ellingworth, Chief Executive, Association of British Healthcare Industries  
 Tony Davis, Chief Executive, Medilink West Midlands

*Secretariat*

Department of Health  
 Association of British Healthcare Industries

*List 3: Senior Industry Group*

*Attendees of meeting on 7 February 2011*

*Co-Chairs*

Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Minister for Universities and Science, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality, Department of Health (Earl Howe)

*Attendees*

Chris Brinsmead, Life Sciences Business Adviser  
 Michael Hunt, ReNeuron  
 Jeremy Haigh, Amgen  
 Matthew Speers, UCB  
 Dr Mark Lloyd-Davies, Johnson and Johnson  
 Simon Cartmell, Osspray  
 Sue Middleton, GSK  
 Bettina Fitt, GE Healthcare  
 Nick Dusic, Pfizer  
 Nick Burgin, Eisai  
 Peter Ellingworth, ABHI  
 Doris Ann Williams, BIVDA  
 Nigel Gaymond, BIA  
 Richard Barker, ABPI  
 John Stageman, ABPI and TSB  
 Aisling Burnand, Cancer Research UK  
 Joe Wildy, Director of Public Affairs and Policy, BIA  
 Mark Wilkinson, NHS

**Post Office Mutualisation**

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Post Office workforce on his proposals for Post Office mutualisation. [41563]

**Mr Davey:** Co-operatives UK is currently seeking the views of all Post Office Ltd's major stakeholders on proposals for Post Office mutualisation. It will be providing a report to Ministers in the spring with options for a how a mutualised Post Office might work. The relevant unions have been actively involved in their research, and individual sub-postmasters have also participated, as well as staff of Post Office Ltd. I have had no substantive discussions on this issue with any trade unions or with Post Office Ltd since Co-operatives UK began its work.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the National Federation of Sub-postmasters on mutualisation of Post Office Ltd. [41564]

**Mr Davey:** Co-operatives UK is currently seeking the views of all Post Office Ltd's major stakeholders on Post Office mutualisation. It will be providing a report to Ministers in the spring with options for how a mutualised Post Office might work. The National Federation of SubPostmasters has been actively involved in their research, however, I have had no substantive discussions with them on this topic since Co-operatives UK began its work.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to receive the outcome of the consideration by Co-operatives UK on the options for a mutualised Post Office. [41632]

**Mr Davey:** We expect Co-operatives UK's report on options for a mutualised Post Office to be presented to Ministers in April.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received initial findings from Co-operatives UK from its study on options for a mutualised Post Office. [41633]

**Mr Davey:** I have not received any initial findings from Co-operatives UK from its study on options for a mutualised Post Office. I expect to receive its final report in April.

#### Post Office: Bank Services

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's document "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", November 2010, what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing a Post Bank. [41102]

**Mr Davey:** The cost of establishing a Post Office bank would have three main components. First, the need for Government to capitalise Post Office Ltd (POL) to allow it to obtain a banking license and lend off of its own balance sheet. Second, exiting existing contractual arrangements relating to the provision of financial services through the post office network. Third, operational costs associated with setting up and running a new financial services unit within POL. The overall cost would depend on the remit and scope of operations of a Post Office bank.

We have concluded that funding for the Post Office network over the spending review period will be better used maintaining and modernising the network to safeguard its future, ensuring that there will be no further programme of post office closures.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's document "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", November 2010, what estimate he has made of the cost of capitalising a Post Bank. [41103]

**Mr Davey:** The Government have looked carefully at the option of creating a state-backed Post Office bank. One of the main components of the cost of establishing a Post Office bank would be the need for Government to capitalise Post Office Ltd (POL) to allow it to obtain a banking license and lend off its own balance sheet. The exact level of Government funding needed would depend on the remit and scope of operations of a Post Office bank. We have concluded that funding for POL over the spending review period will be better used maintaining and modernising the network to safeguard its future, ensuring that there will be no further programme of post office closures.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a weekly budgeting account at the Post Office. [41104]

**Mr Davey:** The Government set out their policy on the future of the post office network in the policy statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", published on 9 November 2010. In this statement we were clear that we will support Post Office Ltd as it expands further into financial services through the provision of new products and by increasing access

to UK current accounts through the post office network. Post Office Ltd will make commercial judgments on which products and services to deliver through the post office network, including proposals such as a weekly budgeting account. Within Government, HM Treasury has commissioned research exploring the options for all customers to have the opportunity to benefit from direct debit discounts.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has taken steps to assist the development of new banking products through the Post Office joint venture with the Bank of Ireland. [41105]

**Mr Davey:** The Government believe that continued growth of revenue from financial services will play an important part in the post office network's future sustainability. The development of specific new banking products through the joint venture between Post Office Ltd and the Bank of Ireland is a commercial matter for the companies.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's document "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", November 2010, what assessment he has made of progress on proposals for Post Office Ltd to (a) develop new banking products with the Bank of Ireland and (b) extend access to credit union services. [41106]

**Mr Davey:** The Government are firmly supportive of the development by Post Office Ltd of new banking and financial products with the Bank of Ireland and of stronger links between Post Office Ltd and credit unions. Negotiations on the provision of new products and services are a commercial matter between Post Office Ltd and the companies and organisations concerned.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on extending access to high street bank current accounts through the post office network. [41107]

**Mr Davey:** Ministers and officials have frequent discussions with senior management at Post Office Ltd on the future of the post office network, including on the Government's ambition for the post office to expand further into financial services and extend access to high street bank current accounts through the post office network.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with (a) HSBC, (b) Santander and (c) Northern Rock on providing access to current accounts through the post office network. [41108]

**Mr Davey:** The Government welcome the recent agreement between Post Office Ltd and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) to allow RBS and NatWest customers access to their accounts at post offices. Negotiations between Post Office Ltd and banks yet to reach agreement on providing access to current accounts at post offices are commercial matters between the companies concerned.

**Regional Development Agencies: Assets**

**Mr Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assets are held by each regional development agency in each region; what the estimated value is of each; which organisation is responsible for it; and what decision has been taken on future disposal in each case. [39799]

**Mr Prisk** [holding answer 11 February 2011]: I refer to the answers given on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 245W and 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 458W. The RDAs submitted detailed assets and liabilities plans to BIS on 31 January. These plans are currently being scrutinised, each disposal will be considered on a case by case basis. An estimated value of each asset cannot be disclosed, at this time, as this information is market and commercially sensitive.

**Regional Development Agencies: Finance**

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 215W, to the hon. Member

for Newcastle upon Tyne Central, what the indicative funding allocations for each regional development agency were for 2011-12. [41333]

**Mr Prisk:** I refer to the answer given on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1048W. The London Development Agency has not yet been given an indicative allocation.

**Vocational Guidance**

**Alison McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the new all-age careers service will be established on a uniform model across England. [40119]

**Mr Hayes:** The all-age careers service will have three core elements: online, helpline and community-based services. The online service and the helpline will deliver on a national basis. Local community-based services will be expected to meet national standards, but will have flexibility to tailor their services to meet local need, including in response to schools, which will have responsibility for securing access for their pupils to independent, impartial guidance.



## Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 17 February 2011

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Affordable Housing: Construction

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable housing units he expects to have been completed in the London borough of Bexley in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12. [41403]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department does not forecast levels of future house building, and delivery will be determined by local housing plans.

We launched the Framework for the Affordable Homes Programme on 14 February 2011. There is almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 new affordable homes. The actual number of homes delivered in each year will be dependent on agreements between registered providers and the Homes and Communities Agency in consultation with local authorities. Providers have until 3 May 2011 to submit delivery proposals to the agency.

#### Councillors

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department issues guidance to local councils wishing to reduce the number of councillors. [41402]

**Robert Neill:** No. The size of principal councils is a matter for the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England, which is directly responsible to Parliament.

Guidance about electoral reviews, including issues about council size, is available on the Commission's website.

#### Departmental Domestic Visits

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the date was of each ministerial visit to each local authority area since May 2010. [38617]

**Robert Neill** [holding answer 7 February 2011]: Further to the answer I gave the right hon. Member on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1308W, since May 2010, the following ministerial visits have been made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), and his ministerial team:

*The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has visited:*

the royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead council area, on 7 June 2010;

the city of Bradford metropolitan district council area, on 29 June 2010;

the Bournemouth borough council area, from 6 to 8 July 2010;

the Liverpool city council area, on 19 July 2010;

the Southampton city council area, on 28 July 2010; and

the Birmingham city council area, on 20 January 2011.

*The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps) has visited:*

the London borough of Wandsworth area, on 20 May 2010;

the Swindon borough council area, on 27 May 2010;

the Leeds city council area, on 24 June 2010;

the Welywn Hatfield council area, on 15 July 2010 and 7 December 2010;

the London borough of Southwark area, on 19 July 2010;

the Reading borough council area on 6 July 2010

the Birmingham city council area, on 22 September 2010;

the Kettering borough council area, on 11 November 2010;

the London borough of Westminster area, on 24 November 2010;

the London borough of Haringey area, on 7 December 2010;

the Manchester city council and Salford city council area, on 31 January 2011; and

the London borough of Lambeth area on 2 February 2011.

*The Minister for Decentralisation (Greg Clark) has visited:*

the London borough of Wandsworth area on 25 June 2010;

the Liverpool city council area, on 19 July 2010;

the Bristol city council area, on 26 July 2010; and

the Bradford city council area, on 29 July 2010.

*The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Robert Neill) has visited:*

the Solihull metropolitan borough council area, on 18 June 2010;

the Maidstone borough council area, on 23 August 2010;

the Wirral council area, on 13 September 2010;

the Thurrock council area, on 20 September 2010;

the London borough of Barnet area, on 23 September 2010;

the Southend-on-Sea borough council area, on 30 September 2010;

the Bristol city council area, on 8 October 2010;

the Gloucester city council area, on 14 October 2010;

the Swale borough council area on 25 October 2010;

the Preston city council area, on 3 November 2010; and

the city of Derby area, on 20 January 2011.

*The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Andrew Stunell) has visited:*

the St Albans city and district council area, on 1 July 2010;

the Bournemouth borough council area, from 6 to 7 July 2010;

the Woking borough council area, on 19 July 2010;

the Liverpool city council area, on 23 July 2010 and 2 December 2010;

the Bristol city council area, on 26 July 2010;

the Bradford metropolitan district council area, on 29 July 2010;

the High Peak borough council area, on 13 September 2010;

the Cambridge city council area, on 22 November 2010;

the Manchester city council area, on 6 December 2010, 18 January 2011 and 31 January 2011;

the London borough of Merton council area, on 7 December 2010;

the Somerset county council area, on 10 January 2011; and

the Birmingham city council area, on 22 January 2011.

*The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Baroness Hanham) has visited:*

the Bournemouth borough council area, from 6 to 7 July 2010;  
the Nottingham city council area, on 23 July 2010;  
the Hampshire county council area, on 2 August 2010;  
the Sheffield city council area, on 4 August 2010;  
the Essex county council area, on 8 October 2010;  
the Manchester city council area, on 12 October 2010;  
the Birmingham city council area, on 11 November 2010;  
the Kettering borough council area, on 13 January 2011;  
the Manchester city council area, on 20 January 2011; and  
the Bristol city council area, on 10 February 2011.

#### Departmental Public Appointments

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many (a) women and (b) men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35396]

**Robert Neill:** I have interpreted appointments to "public duties" to mean the same as "public appointments". I therefore refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 174W.

#### Fire Services: Cambridgeshire

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effect on service provision of the update of the (a) regression expenditure base for the funding formula and (b) fire risk index based on a positively weighted population density indicator for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service from 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [41492]

**Robert Neill:** Exemplifications of the effect of particular changes to the formula for formula grant, including those referred to in (a) and (b) are contained in the 2010 summer consultation document available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

<http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/sumcon/index.htm>

Exemplifications of the effect of updating the regression expenditure base are contained in chapters 3, 5 and 6. Exemplification of the effect of using the population density indicator in the fire risk index is contained in chapter 5.

#### Green Belt

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will make it his policy to ensure that (a) proposed neighbourhood development orders and (b) other proposed orders enabling a community right to build do not allow development other than in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 2; [41539]

(2) if he will take steps to maintain the level of protection for the Green Belt provided for in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 in any future review of planning policy and guidance. [41540]

**Robert Neill:** The Localism Bill will ensure that neighbourhood development orders and Community Right to Build orders appropriately fit with national planning policy. In particular, it requires these orders to be "appropriate having regard to national policy" before they can come into force.

This would include national policy on Green Belt. In December we announced the start of work to create a National Planning Policy Framework. As part of this, we will consider how best to update Green Belt policy, currently set out in PPG2 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, Green Belts). Local planning authorities must have regard to PPG2 in writing development plans or deciding planning proposals affecting Green Belt. PPG2 establishes a presumption against inappropriate development on Green Belt land, and states the importance of keeping Green Belt land permanently open to prevent the sprawl of development.

The coalition agreement commits the Government to maintaining Green Belt protection. Abolition of regional strategies through the Localism Bill will also help protect the Green Belt by removing top down directives to review or weaken Green Belt protection in over 30 towns across England.

#### Housing: Overcrowding

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households approached each local authority for homelessness assistance on the grounds that overcrowding made it unreasonable for them to continue to occupy their property in each of the last five years; and for how many such households the main homelessness duty was accepted by each local authority in each of the last five years. [41597]

**Andrew Stunell:** The information requested is not held by the Department.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities award reasonable preference to overcrowded households in their allocations policy where overcrowding is based on the definition of overcrowding set out in the Housing Act 1985. [41598]

**Andrew Stunell:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

#### Private Rented Housing: Housing Benefit

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to ensure closer working between private landlords and housing benefit administrators. [41517]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Government have a comprehensive programme of financial and practical support in place to help local authorities deliver the changes to the local housing allowance in 2011, including £190 million of additional funding to smooth the transition. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has provided £10 million additional homelessness grant funding. This will help local authorities in London

to work with private landlords, for example, to encourage them to accept housing benefit tenants and offer "rent bond" schemes.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has increased discretionary housing payments by £130 million, and provided a further £50 million to support the transitional stages of change. DWP is temporarily extending local authority discretion to make direct payments of housing benefit to landlords when they agree to reduce rents to an affordable level. Detailed guidance on the application of this safeguard will be issued to local authorities shortly. More broadly, local authorities have continued to improve the time taken to decide new housing benefit claims. In the second quarter of 2010-11, new claims in Great Britain were decided in an average of 22 days, compared to 25 days in the same quarter of 2009-10.

#### Private Rented Housing: Standards

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to ensure that properties in the private rented sector meet minimum health and safety standards required. [41516]

**Andrew Stunell:** Local authorities have extensive powers to take action against landlords who fail to maintain their properties. Under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System, local authorities can assess properties against 29 different hazards. If a property is found to contain serious 'category 1' hazards, the local authority has a duty to take action, which could include enforcement action against the landlord.

The Government are satisfied that the current legislation provides an important safety net, ensuring that homes are safe and decent and achieves the right balance between the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants. The Government have no plans to impose new regulatory requirements on private landlords. This would be likely to lead to a reduction in the numbers of properties to rent and/or force up rents, which would not help tenants or landlords.

#### Residents Associations

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the number of residents' associations in each parliamentary constituency. [41235]

**Andrew Stunell:** This Department does not hold the information requested.

DCLG does not collect information about the number of residents' associations, though we would estimate that there are many hundreds across the country.

#### Social Rented Housing

**Oliver Colville:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the management of estates by social tenants. [41449]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Government want to see more social tenants able to take control over the management of their homes. Local authority tenants wishing to take

over the management of their homes and estates from their landlord have a statutory right to do so under the Housing Act 1985. The Housing (Right to Manage) (England) Regulations 2008 set out the procedures to be followed. Tenants of housing associations can enter into a voluntary agreement with their landlord if they wish to manage their housing. The Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), recently announced plans to make it easier for local authority tenants to exercise their right to manage, as well as an £8 million programme to empower social tenants.

**Oliver Colville:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence and severity of antisocial behaviour in social housing. [41457]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), announced on 11 January proposals to strengthen the hand of social landlords and tenants in tackling antisocial behaviour. Those proposals include making it easier for landlords to take swift and decisive action against their most antisocial tenants by introducing a new additional mandatory ground for possession for serious housing-related antisocial behaviour; greater flexibility on the use of probationary tenancies; and new funding for an antisocial behaviour action team focused on tenant capacity building.

More widely, the Government are currently consulting on proposals to streamline and improve the existing toolkit available to the police, social landlords and others to tackle antisocial behaviour. The proposals are intended to better protect victims and communities from the serious harm caused by criminal and antisocial behaviour by making the tools faster, more flexible, and more effective.

#### Travellers: Caravan Sites

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to strengthen civil law relating to trespass in order to tackle unauthorised Traveller sites on privately owned land. [41268]

**Robert Neill:** As outlined in the Secretary of State's press notice of 29 August 2010, unauthorised developments have created tensions between travellers and the settled population. We want to redress the balance and put fairness back into communities. The Localism Bill includes provisions to strengthen councils' powers on planning enforcement, and we are reviewing further steps that can be taken against unauthorised encampments.

#### Voluntary Organisations: Finance

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department provides to voluntary organisations which are facing closure or reduction in service delivery owing to reductions in funding. [39371]

**Andrew Stunell [holding answer 10 February 2011]:** Spending decisions are, and will continue to be, a matter for local authorities. We have a rich diversity of voluntary



organisations, charities, faith groups, cooperatives, social enterprises and local housing trusts—all of which already make a huge contribution to local life. I do not expect local authorities to pass on disproportionate cuts to other service providers, especially the voluntary sector.

The Minister for Decentralisation, the right hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), wrote to all local authority leaders on 4 February:

asking them to share examples of the positive approaches that they have taken to work with the sector, with a view to my Department drawing upon such approaches to highlight and promote best practice; and

proposing to require all local authorities to publish details about their contractual grants and payments to the sector. This greater transparency would help local small businesses, community groups and social enterprises to become more competitive in bidding for and delivering local services to local people.

We are also, through the Localism Bill, taking forward our 'Rights' agenda. The Bill, which is presently at Committee stage, includes a community right to challenge. This will enable voluntary and community bodies, as well as parish councils and local authority employees wishing to deliver the service as mutual, to express an interest in running a local authority service, which may trigger a procurement exercise for that service.

The Bill also contains provisions for a community right to buy, which will enable communities to identify and nominate assets of community value in their local areas for listing by the local authority. When these assets come up for sale, voluntary and community groups will be given extra time to prepare a business case and be ready to bid for the asset when it goes on the open market.

We intend to develop a package of support to assist voluntary and community sector groups to take up both of these rights and we are consulting on what this support might look like.

## SCOTLAND

### Private Rented Housing: Fines

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the use of funds received from fines rendered against private landlords in Scotland. [41431]

**Michael Moore:** The Economic Secretary to the Treasury has recently written to the Scottish Ministers on this matter.

### Scotland Bill

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to publish the correspondence on the Scotland Bill between his Department and the Scottish Government. [41129]

**David Mundell:** The UK Government have no plans to publish their correspondence with the Scottish Government. The UK Government believe it is important to continue to respect the confidentiality of inter-administration discussions.

## HEALTH

### Cancer Drugs Fund

**Mr Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria strategic health authorities use to grant funding from the interim Cancer Drugs Fund. [41570]

**Mr Simon Burns:** I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave him on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 224W.

### Carers: Grandparents

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision his Department has made to support grandparents who are the primary carers of their disabled grandchildren. [39257]

**Paul Burstow:** This Government recognise the valuable role played by many grandparents who care for their disabled grandchildren, in order to allow the parents of the disabled child to continue to work or to take a break from caring.

While there is no specific provision available to support grandparent carers, on 25 November 2010, the Government's updated Carers Strategy, "Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy", set out the overarching priority areas for action over the next four years. This includes the provision of personalised support for carers and those they support, and supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well. This can include grandparents caring for their disabled grandchildren.

To back these commitments up, the Department will be investing additional funding of £400 million to the national health service over the next four years to enable more carers to take breaks from their caring responsibilities, which may include grandparents in caring roles. This money will not be ring fenced, but for 2011-12, primary care trusts should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people.

The Department has also made funding available for general practitioner training, to increase their awareness and understanding of all carers' health needs, including grandparents, so that they can receive appropriate support.

The Department for Education announced in December that they are providing over £800 million over the next four years for short breaks for families of disabled children as part of the new Early Intervention Grant. The Government will be providing £198 million/£202 million/£206 million/£210 million for short breaks over the next four years including the Child Trust Fund money of at least £20 million each year. The Early Intervention Grant is not ring fenced and it will be for local authorities to determine how they use that resource to best effect, including what services would be funded for families with disabled children.

### Chlamydia: Screening

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements will be placed on primary care trusts in respect of the delivery of the national Chlamydia screening programme for 2011-12. [41577]

**Anne Milton:** We are committed to continuing opportunistic Chlamydia testing among 15 to 24-year-olds in some form in 2011-12, but are considering how it can be enhanced.

On 20 December 2010, we published the consultation document 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Transparency in Outcomes, Proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework'. The new framework will be in operation from April 2012. This includes a proposed indicator on reducing Chlamydia diagnoses rates among 15 to 24-year-olds. A copy of the consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

In 2011-12, the national health service will continue to lead on improvements to public health, ensuring that public health services are in the strongest possible position when responsibilities are devolved to local authorities.

NHS organisations will continue to be held to account against the existing public health indicators, which includes Chlamydia screening.

#### Departmental Contracts

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 458-60W, on departmental contracts, what services were provided under each contract funded from the public purse and awarded by single tender. [40997]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information to complete the table on the date, type, supplier name and amount of every single tender contract awarded in the written answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 458-60W, is extracted from the Department's central payments database. For each payment there is also an entry under a heading 'Item description'. However, these are mostly only very brief or partial. To establish the precise details of what the payment related to would mean contacting the individual branches within the Department which commissioned the service in the first place. They would in turn have to consider exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act. For these reasons the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

#### Diabetes: Health Services

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the cost to the NHS of treatment of diabetes and diabetes-related conditions in each year since 2005. [41479]

**Paul Burstow:** Diabetes is a complex life-long condition that can affect every part of the body. There are a number of associated complications with the condition which makes it difficult to calculate the exact total cost to the national health service.

The Department of Health's programme budget figures indicate £1.43 billion of the Department's gross expenditure in England in 2009-10 was spent on diabetes. This figure does not include spending on prevention or on general medical services or primary medical services.

|         | Diabetes expenditure (£ billion) | Department of Health gross expenditure (£ billion) | Diabetes as a proportion of gross expenditure (percentage) |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2004-05 | 0.69                             | 71.92                                              | 1.0                                                        |
| 2005-06 | 0.87                             | 80.19                                              | 1.1                                                        |
| 2006-07 | 1.04                             | 84.19                                              | 1.2                                                        |
| 2007-08 | 1.15                             | 93.18                                              | 1.2                                                        |
| 2008-09 | 1.26                             | 96.81                                              | 1.3                                                        |
| 2009-10 | 1.43                             | 103.97                                             | 1.4                                                        |

In 2009-10, 35.5 million items were prescribed for diabetes at a net ingredient cost (NIC) of £649.2 million. This represents 7.7% of the total cost of prescribing in primary care in England in 2009-10, compared to £458.6 million (5.8%) in 2004-05.

The NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

Further expenditure will have taken place throughout the NHS system that is not possible to identify.

#### General Practitioners

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to issue guidance to GP consortia on the commissioning of fracture prevention services. [41281]

**Paul Burstow:** One of the NHS Commissioning Board's five main functions, set out in "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", is

'Providing national leadership on commissioning for quality improvement'.

This will include setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with the advice of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE has been commissioned to develop a Quality Standard on Hip fractures, and a Quality Standard on Fractures excluding head and hip is planned, subject to further work on the feasibility and scope.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, currently before Parliament, the NHS Commissioning Board will have responsibility for supporting general practitioner consortia in their commissioning role. It will be for the Board to decide what, if any, guidance to issue on the commissioning of fracture prevention services.

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate (a) the number of fragility fractures which would be prevented and (b) the net cost savings to the NHS that would be achieved in an average GP consortia patient population through the introduction of a commissioned falls and fracture care pathway. [41282]

**Paul Burstow:** The most recent estimate of the extent to which fragility fractures could be prevented for a certain population through the introduction of a falls and fracture care pathway (also known as a fracture liaison service), and the consequent savings to the national health service, is set out in "Fracture prevention services:

An economic evaluation", which was published by the Department in 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library.

### Health Services: Prices

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence his Department has evaluated on the effect of variable price competition on the health care market. [40655]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill will not introduce variable price competition into the market for national health service-funded services. The Government's view on the evidence relating to this issue is set out in the Impact Assessment published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill on 19 January and available on the Department's website at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH\\_123583](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583)

### Horse Meat

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many horses were slaughtered for food in each of the last five years. [40847]

**Mr Paice:** I have been asked to reply.

The Food Standards Agency has reported that the total number of horses slaughtered at the three abattoirs operating in Great Britain that are licensed to slaughter horses for human consumption in each of the last five years was as follows:

|      | <i>Number of horses slaughtered</i> |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 2006 | 3,809                               |
| 2007 | 3,859                               |
| 2008 | 3,812                               |
| 2009 | 5,147                               |
| 2010 | 7,933                               |

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many horses slaughtered for food (a) were thoroughbreds and (b) had horse passports in each of the last five years. [40909]

**Mr Paice:** I have been asked to reply.

Records relating to slaughtered horses are not held on a breed basis.

All horses slaughtered for human consumption must be accompanied by either a passport, or, for horses over 12 months of age and covered by the derogation applying to Dartmoor, Exmoor and the New Forest, a passport application form and a correctly completed rump sticker. (Foals moving from those derogated areas require only a rump sticker.)

### Mental Health Services

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of people with a personality disorder; and how many of those were in receipt of forensic mental health services at the latest date for which figures are available. [41525]

**Paul Burstow:** Personality disorders are common conditions, with differing levels of severity. The Department does not routinely collect information about personality disorders but estimates suggest between 2 million and 5 million people in the United Kingdom have or are at risk of developing personality disorder. Information about the diagnostic classification of users of mental health services is not collected centrally.

The national health service and national offender management service plan to reconfigure existing services to manage high risk, sexual or violent offenders whose offending is linked to severe forms of personality disorder. The implementation plan for these changes is subject to a consultation by the Department and the Ministry of Justice. Details can be found at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_124435](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_124435)

### NHS Foundation Trusts: Debts

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prevent a foundation trust from selling its property to offset short-term financial deficits. [41205]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government intend to liberate foundation trusts so they can be free to focus on improving outcomes, be more responsive to patients and innovate. Under proposals in the Health Bill, the disposal of property would primarily be an issue for the foundation trust itself. As the representatives of the public and staff, foundation trust governors would have the final say in all transactions defined as significant in the foundation trust's constitution. The governors' role would be to represent the interests of members and the public and to hold the non-executive directors to account for the performance of the board.

We intend to establish an operationally independent banking function to manage the taxpayers' investment in foundation trusts. It would set conditions on a foundation trust's debt, that could include restrictions on the disposal of property to maintain the value of the taxpayers' investment.

The new legislation would also place Monitor under a duty, in its proposed role as economic regulator, to support commissioners in ensuring the continuity of national health service services designated by commissioners for additional regulation. These services and related assets would be protected. Monitor would be able to veto a sale of property if it were not satisfied that the purchaser could continue to provide the designated services.

### NHS: Managers

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many managerial staff were employed in the NHS in England at the end of each financial year since 1997-98. [41136]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Annual Workforce Census collects the numbers of staff at 30 September each year. The numbers of managers and senior managers working in the national health service since 1998 are shown in the following table.



The figures collected on 30 September 2010 will be published by the NHS Information Centre on 22 March 2011.

*NHS hospital and community health service: NHS infrastructure support, 1998 to 2009, as at 30 September each year, England*

|      | Full-time equivalent |                |
|------|----------------------|----------------|
|      | Manager              | Senior manager |
| 1998 | 14,112               | 7,741          |
| 1999 | 14,786               | 8,592          |
| 2000 | 15,664               | 8,589          |
| 2001 | 16,911               | 9,374          |
| 2002 | 19,494               | 11,420         |
| 2003 | 22,195               | 11,614         |
| 2004 | 24,642               | 11,365         |
| 2005 | 26,568               | 10,981         |
| 2006 | 24,782               | 10,258         |
| 2007 | 24,873               | 10,082         |
| 2008 | 26,854               | 11,083         |
| 2009 | 29,924               | 12,585         |

Source:

The NHS Information Centre.

### NHS: Pensions

**Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons closed direction pensions transfers were introduced for social enterprises and not for other providers of public services. [41025]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Closed directions were introduced for staff transferring to "Right to Request" social enterprises as a result of the Command Paper, 'High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report'. Closed directions have been available for many years to not for profit providers of national health service funded services, principally to allow staff transferred from the NHS to remain in the pension scheme. Social enterprises therefore already qualified under the existing policy.

### NHS: Private Sector

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely treatment under EU state aid rules of a foundation trust hospital which receives over 50% of its income from private funding under his legislation proposals for NHS reform. [41114]

**Mr Simon Burns:** On our proposals for national health service reform, we are assessing where European Union law will have an impact and what the position will be with respect to a health system that will remain funded by the taxpayer and providing universal coverage, free at the point of need.

The Health and Social Care Bill ensures that the principal legal purpose of a foundation trust would remain to provide goods and services for the NHS in England. Foundation trusts would also be required to keep separate accounts for their private income and NHS income through directions on their accounts made by the Secretary of State for Health with the approval of HM Treasury to ensure this is transparent.

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to require foundation trust hospitals to share (a) operating theatres and (b) brain scanners with private health providers under his legislative proposals for NHS reform. [41115]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Health and Social Care Bill would empower Monitor to impose special licence conditions on a provider of national health service services 'licence holder' requiring that licence holder to provide another licence holder with access to particular services under terms that Monitor may specify. Decisions on the exercise of these powers would be a matter for Monitor.

### Prostate Gland: Medical Treatments

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the best practice tariff will maintain equity between the (a) transurethral resection of the prostate and (b) holmium laser enucleation of the prostate treatments for prostate conditions. [41459]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The characteristic of best practice that the best practice tariff is intended to incentivise is a higher day case rate. The best practice tariff does not discriminate between transurethral resection of the prostate and holmium laser enucleation of the prostate treatments for prostate conditions, other than whether these procedures are undertaken as day cases.

The 2011-12 best practice tariffs for treatment of the enlarged prostate have been developed with the support of clinicians, including the President of the British Association of Urological Surgeons.

The draft 2011-12 tariffs were shared for 'sense check' in October 2010, and changes were subsequently made to the levels of the proposed tariff for resection of prostate by laser to reflect concerns that a day case rate target of 90% was overly ambitious for delivery in one year. A revised target of 30% was therefore agreed, and the draft 2011-12 tariff prices were increased accordingly.

The 2011-12 tariff prices were published for 'road test' on 22 December, since when it has been brought to the Department's attention that the published best practice tariff price for resection of prostate by laser contained a typographical error. The October 2010 'sense check' prices for this procedure had been inadvertently included, rather than the revised prices that were agreed for 'road test'.

The agreed prices for resection of prostate by laser will appear in the final tariff package for 2011-12 when it is published shortly.

### Transition Programme

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, on transition programme, for what reason the information on the (a) membership and (b) frequency of meetings of the Commissioning Development Board was not placed in the Library; and if he will place that information in the Library. [41505]

**Mr Simon Burns:** I regret that the information was not placed in the Library due to an administrative error. The information was placed in the Library on 15 February.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, on transition programme, what the (a) names of, (b) leaders of and (c) participants in each primary workstream outlined in the Provider Development Delivery Strategy were. [41506]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Ian Dalton CBE is the managing director for the provider development programme. Within this programme of work, there are two directors and the following primary workstreams:

Bob Ricketts CBE, Director of Provider Policy: development of a new system of economic regulation; and support and enable the new provider landscape;

Matthew Kershaw, Director of Provider Delivery: delivery of the provider landscape.

In addition there are two cross-cutting workstreams that are the responsibility of Bob Ricketts and Matthew Kershaw. These are:

develop leadership capacity to support the new provider landscape; and

engagement and communication.

The Provider Development Board (PDB) provides the formal governance for the delivery of the provider development programme, providing scrutiny of issues on behalf of the NHS management board (and taking provider development specific decisions within their remit). The PDB will agree the formal programme of work up to April 2012 for consideration by the NHS management board. The membership and the terms of reference of the PDB have already been placed in the Library.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, on transition programme (1) if he will make it his policy to place in the Library copies of (a) agendas, (b) minutes and (c) board papers for future meetings of each of the constituent bodies of the transition programme within one week of such meetings taking place; [41537]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of the (a) agendas, (b) minutes and (c) board papers for meetings of each of the constituent bodies of the transition programme. [41538]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has made a commitment to publish summary minutes on the Department's website relating to meetings of each of the bodies outlined in the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, on transition programme (Departmental Board, DH Executive Board, Transition Programme Board, Commissioning Development Board and the Provider Development Board).

We have no plans to routinely publish in the Library copies of the agendas, full minutes, and board papers for future meetings.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, on transition programme, if he will publish a list of all meetings or events which have taken place since 1 May 2010 between individuals named as members of the constituent bodies of the transition programme or officials working on their behalf and any employees, representatives or intermediaries of (a) United

Health, (b) KPMG and (c) Tribal Group, including for each such meeting (i) the names of those attending, (ii) the date on which each meeting took place, (iii) the location of each meeting or event, (iv) the purpose of each meeting, (v) topics discussed, (vi) the titles of any presentations or other documents produced for or at each meeting and (vii) the authors and main presenters of such presentations or other documents. [41585]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department does not routinely collect this information and therefore the information requested could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

## JUSTICE

### Corruption: Business

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals on corruption in international business. [41331]

**Mr Djanogly:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke) on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 581W.

### Corston Review

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the continuing operational viability in 2011-12 of each of the projects arising from the recommendations of the Corston Review; [41543]

(2) what funding his Department has provided for projects arising from the recommendations of the Corston Review in 2010-11. [41574]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice established a programme of work to divert from custody vulnerable women, who do not pose a risk to the public. Over £10 million has been provided by the Ministry of Justice in the period up to March 2011 to fund women's community based services. Plans for sustainable funding in 2011-12 are progressing. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has considered each of the projects on the basis of:

Performance in 2010-11;

Demand for their services;

Capability to deliver future objectives;

Sustainability without NOMS funding.

NOMS has also made a commitment from 2012-13 onwards to commission services that demonstrate their effectiveness in diverting women from custody. A full announcement will be made shortly.

### Death Certificates: Fees and Charges

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely average fee to be charged for death certificates under the proposed new death certification process. [41147]

**Anne Milton:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government's preferred option for funding the improved process of death certification, when introduced, is a single fee for certification of all deaths—irrespective of whether death is followed by burial, cremation or other form of disposal. The level of fee, which will be set on the basis of full cost recovery, has yet to be determined. However, the fee is likely to be lower than current cremation certification fees, which it will replace. As cremation accounts for 73% of all disposals, the Government expect that most bereaved families will pay less under the new arrangements.

### Harassment: Restraining Order

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many persons were found guilty under Section 5(5) of the Protection from Harassment Act

1997 of breaching a restraining order and given (a) a term of imprisonment, (b) a fine and (c) a term of imprisonment and a fine in each year since 1998; [40422]

(2) how many persons in England and Wales were made the subject of a restraining order under section 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in each year since 1998. [40423]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts, sentenced to a fine, immediate custody, immediate custody and issued with a fine, or given a restraining order under section 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in tables 1 and 2.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts and the number of persons issued with a fine, given a custodial sentence or given a custodial sentence and issued with a fine, under section 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2009<sup>1,2,3</sup>

| Offence description                       | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 <sup>4</sup> | 2009  |
|-------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|-------|
| Breach of a restraining order             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                   |       |
| Found guilty                              | 274  | 461  | 557  | 539  | 604  | 687  | 766  | 880  | 873  | 738  | 821               | 1,463 |
| Sentenced <sup>5</sup>                    | 273  | 471  | 561  | 534  | 597  | 689  | 760  | 876  | 861  | 784  | 748               | 1,328 |
| of which:                                 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                   |       |
| Fine                                      | 53   | 89   | 86   | 93   | 101  | 119  | 112  | 114  | 87   | 55   | 77                | 141   |
| Immediate custody                         | 123  | 206  | 226  | 193  | 206  | 226  | 282  | 289  | 308  | 269  | 260               | 456   |
| Immediate custody and a fine <sup>6</sup> | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8                 | 8     |
| Other sentences <sup>7</sup>              | 97   | 176  | 249  | 248  | 290  | 344  | 366  | 473  | 466  | 460  | 411               | 731   |

<sup>1</sup>The following statutes were used for the corresponding offence:

Breach of a Restraining Order

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s.5

<sup>2</sup>The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

<sup>3</sup>Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>4</sup>Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

<sup>5</sup>The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

<sup>6</sup>Where immediate custody was the principal disposal and the fine was a secondary disposal.

Includes: absolute/conditional discharge, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

<sup>7</sup>= Nil

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Table 2: The number of persons given a restraining order at all courts under section 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in England and Wales, 1998 to 2009<sup>1,2,3</sup>

| Offence description—<br>Breach of a<br>restraining order | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 <sup>4</sup> | 2009 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| Restraining order                                        | 11   | 18   | 22   | 22   | 33   | 58   | 46   | 73   | 81   | 76   | 33                | 102  |

<sup>1</sup>The following statute and corresponding offence description were used:

Offence code 831: Breach of a Restraining Order

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s.5

<sup>2</sup>The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom this sentence was the principal disposal, but also where it was given a secondary or other disposal.

<sup>3</sup>Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

<sup>4</sup>Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice



### Lancaster Prison

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which body will have responsibility for the maintenance of HM Prison Lancaster following its closure. [41112]

**Mr Blunt:** It was announced on 13 January 2011 that the prison at Lancaster Castle will close. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) leases the castle from the Duchy of Lancaster. The lease with the Duchy of Lancaster provides for a three-year period of notice. Responsibility for maintenance during any period of notice remains with the MoJ.

### Legal Aid Scheme

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the effects of the implementation of his proposed changes to the legal aid scheme on the number of litigants in person involved in court proceedings; and what assessment he has made of the effects of any change in the number of such litigants on the costs of HM Courts Service. [41380]

**Mr Djanogly:** We are currently reviewing the existing data and research into the impact of litigants in person on the courts. This will contribute to the analysis in the final impact assessments due to be published alongside the legal aid consultation response in spring 2011. There will also be a post-implementation review of any reforms.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of legal aid recipients were (a) women, (b) black, (c) Asian and (d) minority ethnic in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [41489]

**Mr Djanogly:** Available information on the gender and ethnicity of legal aid recipients is set out in the following tables.

| Civil legal aid           |            |                      | Percentage          |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                           | Legal help | Civil representation | All civil legal aid |
| Female                    | 54         | 58                   | 55                  |
| Black                     | 12         | 5                    | 11                  |
| Asian                     | 7          | 4                    | 7                   |
| BAME                      | 29         | 14                   | 27                  |
| Criminal legal aid        |            |                      | Percentage          |
| Female                    |            |                      | 13                  |
| Unknown/prefer not to say |            |                      | 13                  |
| Black                     |            |                      | 5                   |
| Asian                     |            |                      | 4                   |
| Minority Ethnicity        |            |                      | 9                   |
| Unknown/prefer not to say |            |                      | 21                  |

Police station figures are not included in the above as a grant of legal aid is not required.

### Legal Aid: Landlord and Tenant

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received legal aid in respect of a tenant's right to live in quiet enjoyment in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [41385]

**Mr Djanogly:** The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid. Instead it records the number of 'acts of assistance' for which funding was granted. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person. During the financial year 2009-10, there were 2,393 claims made under legal help and 390 civil representation cases closed relating to housing harassment, which includes wrongful or unlawful eviction.

### Legal Aid: Repossession

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many repossession cases were (a) successfully and (b) unsuccessfully contested by the defendant in the most recent 12 month for which figures are available; and how many and what proportion of these defendants had legal representation. [41454]

**Mr Djanogly:** During 2010 there were 210,392 landlord and mortgage repossession claims issued in the county courts of England and Wales. However, the Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally on how many of these were contested by the defendant.

While the administrative computer systems used in the county courts contain the incidence of claims issued and orders made in repossession cases, they do not specifically hold information about whether the cases were contested by the defendant. It may be possible to obtain this information through the examination of individual case files but this would incur disproportionate cost.

### Legal Aid: Social Security Benefits

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many welfare claimants received legal aid in respect of a benefit claim in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [41456]

**Mr Djanogly:** The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid. Instead it records the number of 'acts of assistance' for which funding was granted. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

During the financial year 2009-10, there were 110,164 claims made under legal help and 27 civil representation cases closed under the welfare benefits category of law.

### National Offender Management Service: Qualifications

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many senior managers employed in the head office at the National Offender Management Service have (a) experience of and (b) a qualification in probation work. [41071]

**Mr Blunt:** Information about the qualifications and experience of individual members of staff is not held centrally. To obtain the information requested would involve identifying and contacting sources of information in many different locations and would thus incur disproportionate cost.

#### Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation of foreign national prisoners convicted in courts in England and Wales who served custodial sentences in (a) England and Wales and (b) their country of origin. [41631]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice does not collate specific information on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation of foreign national prisoners. Research studies to date have not separately assessed effectiveness for this group of prisoners, and due to the comparatively small numbers involved, the production of meaningful data would also be problematic.

#### Social Security Benefits: Tribunals

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of welfare benefit tribunal cases were (a) won and (b) lost by the claimant in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and in how many cases in each category did the claimant have legal representation. [41455]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following tables provide information on the number and proportion of social security and child support cases heard and their outcomes between October 2009 and September 2010 and for the same period the number of cases where the appellant had legal representation. This is the most recent 12 month period for which statistics have been published.

| All outcomes                        |         |            |
|-------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| October 2009 to September 2010      |         |            |
|                                     | Number  | Percentage |
| Cleared at hearing                  | 238,700 | —          |
| Decision in favour of the appellant | 87,500  | 37         |
| Decision of 1st tier Agency upheld  | 149,000 | 62         |

| Outcome—with representative <sup>1</sup> |        |            |
|------------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| October 2009 to September 2010           |        |            |
|                                          | Number | Percentage |
| Cleared at hearing                       | 87,800 | —          |
| Decision in favour of the appellant      | 47,300 | 54         |
| Decision of 1st tier Agency upheld       | 39,200 | 45         |

<sup>1</sup> Figures with representatives show appellants who had a representative; however, this does not necessarily confirm the representative was in attendance on the day of hearing.

| Outcome—no representative           |         |            |
|-------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| October 2009 to September 2010      |         |            |
|                                     | Number  | Percentage |
| Cleared at hearing                  | 151,000 | —          |
| Decision in favour of the appellant | 40,200  | 27         |

#### Outcome—no representative

October 2009 to September 2010

|                                    | Number  | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Decision of 1st tier Agency upheld | 109,900 | 72         |

#### CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

##### BSkyB: News Corporation

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 879W, on News Corporation, if he will ensure that the information he plans to publish on the process surrounding the proposed News Corporation takeover of BSkyB includes all (a) telephone calls, (b) letters, (c) meetings and (d) other communications between Ministers and officials of his Department and News Corporation and BSkyB. [41589]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made to the House on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 3WS, setting out what I have published so far. So far as possible, I will release all relevant further information relating to this merger which has not already been published on or shortly after the time the final decision is taken.

In addition, information about Ministers' meetings with external organisations is published on the DCMS website on a quarterly basis.

##### Digital Economy Act 2010

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects on the digital economy of implementation of sections 3 to 16 of the Digital Economy Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [41332]

**Mr Vaizey:** The initial obligations under the Digital Economy Act (DEA) are aimed at reducing the volume of online copyright infringement on networks. We expect that the successful implementation of these measures will bring about a reduction in unlawful file-sharing activity and, in turn, bring about an increase in revenues generated by content owners and consequent investment in content creation.

Alongside the DEA measures to reduce the unlawful use of content online, industry will need to develop strong, legitimate content offerings in order to deliver all the benefits that the digital economy has to offer. This will benefit consumers by giving them greater choice of lawful content services, delivered in the way they want and at a price that is fair and reasonable for all parties.

##### Licensing

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) for how long he anticipates the contract with Arqiva for licensing spectrum to the programme making and special events sector to run; and if he will make a statement; [41173]

(2) when interested parties will be informed of the arrangements for the next tender process to provide spectrum licensing to the programme making and special events sector; and if he will make a statement; [41174]

(3) when he expects the terms of the contract with Arqiva to provide spectrum licensing to the programme making and special events sector to be confirmed; and if he will make a statement; [41175]

(4) when he expects the contract for licensing spectrum to the programme making and special events sector to next be put out to tender; and if he will make a statement. [41176]

**Mr Vaizey:** Ofcom recently concluded a tender process for the contract to provide licensing and spectrum management services to the programme-making and special events sector. The contract has been awarded to Arqiva Ltd, and Ofcom is in the process of finalising the contract, subject to terms and conditions. The contract will run for five years from when it enters into force, subject to Ofcom's rights of early termination.

Ofcom does not have any plans to re-tender in the near future. Should Ofcom decide to commence another award process for the provision of spectrum licensing for programme-making and special events, interested parties would be informed as appropriate.

#### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 9 December 2010 with regard to Ms J Vickers. [41274]

**John Penrose:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 148W.

Where possible all correspondence sent from the Department is done so by e-mail. The answer in question was e-mailed directly to the parliamentary office of the right hon. Member on 23 December 2010, and again in response to the parliamentary question referred to above.

I will ensure a third copy of the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport's response is sent to the right hon. Member. If he still does not receive it, he should send a member of his parliamentary staff to my office and my officials will be happy to hand over a paper copy of the reply personally.

#### Mobile Phones: Harassment

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with mobile phone operators the introduction of a protocol to handle instances of menacing or harassing calls received from mobile phones in circumstances where the caller has withheld the number. [40652]

**Mr Vaizey:** All UK mobile network operators already provide extensive guidance on their websites on the handling of nuisance phone calls as well as supplementary advice being available on the Ofcom website.

#### Newspaper Press

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many local newspapers have closed in each region in each of the last 20 years. [41246]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not keep records on the number of closures, or start-ups, of newspapers.

#### Tourism: Marketing

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which (a) companies and (b) other organisations have pledged a contribution to the tourism marketing fund; and how much has been pledged to date. [39656]

**John Penrose:** Further to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 149W, VisitBritain are continuing their discussions with companies concerning potential offers. This is a four-year programme, and VisitBritain do not expect to have contracted the full amount for year one until March. These are commercially sensitive negotiations and further details will not be available until then.

#### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

##### Energy: Business

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to require third party energy intermediaries to sign up to a code of conduct for the purposes of reducing the mis-selling of energy contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises. [41170]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government support Ofgem's recommendation that suppliers and customers should always consider a third party intermediary's practices prior to entering into a business arrangement. Bodies such as the Utilities Intermediaries Association (UIA) operate voluntary industry codes of practice for their members, and promote appropriate standards of behaviour. The Office of Fair Trading and Trading Standards Services have a joint duty to enforce the Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations (BPRs), which prohibit businesses from advertising products in a way that misleads traders and set out conditions under which comparative advertising, to both consumers and business, is permitted.

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to require energy suppliers to be responsible for the sales methods used by third party intermediaries selling contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises. [41576]

**Charles Hendry:** Currently we have no plans to bring forward the proposals my hon. Friend asks about. The Government support Ofgem's recommendation that



suppliers and customers should always consider a third party intermediary's practices prior to entering into a business arrangement.

**Oliver Colville:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will direct Ofgem to review its procedure for complaints against third party intermediaries by small and medium-sized enterprises to retain recordings of all telephone calls made during a complaint. [41583]

**Charles Hendry:** Brokering contracts between energy suppliers and customers is not a licensable activity and therefore is not directly regulated by Ofgem. Complaints from business customers about the marketing activities used by third party intermediaries can be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading and local authority Trading Standards Service, who have the powers in this area. I have asked Ofgem, in the context of carrying out its Retail Market Review, to consider if any additional measures would be appropriate in respect of the relationship suppliers have with third party intermediaries.

#### Energy: EU Action

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 910-11W, on energy, if he will work with his European counterparts to ensure that the indicative EU-wide target to reduce primary energy use by 20 per cent. by 2020 through improvements in energy efficiency is made legally binding as part of the European Commission's review of the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan. [41590]

**Gregory Barker:** In common with other member states, the Government do not believe that making the EU target legally binding is appropriate or necessary to deliver improvements in energy efficiency. We believe that the Commission should instead focus their forthcoming review of the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan on facilitating practical action to deliver real energy savings.

#### Energy: Housing

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in what proportion of privately-rented properties in the constituency of Brighton, Pavilion his Department expects energy efficiency measures to be installed through the Green Deal. [41592]

**Gregory Barker:** We expect the Green Deal to be taken up widely across all building sectors and tenures, including privately rented properties in the constituency of Brighton, Pavilion. It will offer private landlords a real opportunity to invest in the energy efficiency of their properties at no up-front cost to themselves.

We are also creating powers in the Energy Bill, which will require landlords to make reasonable energy efficiency improvements.

We intend to use these powers from 2015 if we do not see voluntary improvement in energy efficiency under the Green Deal.

#### Energy: National Policy Statements

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to discuss with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs the findings of the Report by the Energy and Climate Change Committee on the revised draft national policy statements on energy on the Holford Rules in formulating the Government's response to that report. [41244]

**Charles Hendry:** My officials will consult with DEFRA officials and those of other Government Departments before the Government's response to the Energy and Climate Change Committee report on the energy National Policy Statements is published.

#### International Climate Fund

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contribution his Department plans to make to the international climate finance fund over the period of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [41683]

**Gregory Barker:** The spending review provides a total of £2.9 billion of international climate finance—called the international climate fund (ICF)—over the spending review period. The fund will be managed collectively by the relevant Departments. From DECC's budget, we will contribute £1 billion of the total.

#### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of solar photovoltaic projects supported through the feed-in tariff scheme that were defined as large-scale since the scheme's inception. [41242]

**Gregory Barker:** Data provided by Ofgem show a total of three large-scale (over 50kW) solar photovoltaic (PV) schemes accredited for Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) since the scheme started in April 2010. All of these schemes have a total installed capacity of between 50kW and 100kW, however there is a considerably larger number of such schemes currently in the planning system or awaiting accreditation.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the inclusion of solar photovoltaic projects in his review of feed-in tariffs on (a) the solar photovoltaic industry and (b) levels of employment in that industry. [41542]

**Gregory Barker:** The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) announced the Feed-in tariffs (FITs) review including fast-track consideration for large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) on 7 February 2010. Detailed proposals on the fast track review are being worked up and will be published for consultation next month. We will use the review to gather evidence

on the likely impact of our proposals. We want to deliver an outcome that provides a sustainable future for industry.

#### Warm Front Scheme: Enfield

**Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in Enfield North constituency have participated in the Warm Front scheme in each of the last five years. [41609]

**Gregory Barker:** The following table shows the number of households assisted under the Warm Front scheme in the constituency of Enfield North in each of the last five years.

| Enfield North constituency |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Scheme year                | Number of assisted households |
| 2005-06                    | 196                           |
| 2006-07                    | 270                           |
| 2007-08                    | 462                           |
| 2008-09                    | 399                           |
| 2009-10                    | 331                           |
| 2010-11 <sup>1</sup>       | 140                           |

<sup>1</sup> Up to 31 December 2010

#### Warm Home Discount Scheme

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many submissions were made to his Department's Warm Home Discount consultation; how many such submissions called for terminally ill people to be included in the core group to receive the Warm Home Discount automatically; and when his Department plans to publish its response to the consultation. [41957]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC received 1,847 responses to the consultation on Warm Home Discount. 1,800 of these were emails calling for terminally ill people to be included in the core group. A response will be published in due course.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts between UK forces and the Taliban there have been in Helmand province in each month since April 2009. [35526]

**Nick Harvey [holding answer 24 January 2011]:** The numbers of troops in contact events involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in the Task Force Helmand area of operations in Helmand Province for each complete month from April 2009 for which verified data are available are shown in the following table:

| Month | Number of contacts <sup>1</sup> |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 2009  |                                 |
| April | 160                             |
| May   | 230                             |

| Month     | Number of contacts <sup>1</sup> |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| June      | 460                             |
| July      | 450                             |
| August    | 430                             |
| September | 450                             |
| October   | 360                             |
| November  | 430                             |
| December  | 490                             |
| 2010      |                                 |
| January   | 560                             |
| February  | 470                             |
| March     | 520                             |
| April     | 220                             |
| May       | 540                             |
| June      | 740                             |
| July      | 910                             |
| August    | 990                             |
| September | 800                             |
| October   | 790                             |
| November  | 160                             |
| December  | 370                             |

<sup>1</sup> Rounded to the nearest 10

ISAF forces operating in Task Force Helmand's area of operations come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside Afghan Army and police units. Without undertaking a detailed assessment of each engagement, it is not possible to define precisely in every case whether a contact involved UK forces, our ISAF partners, or Afghan units. Data are therefore collected on the number of incidents involving ISAF forces in Task Force Helmand's area of operations without attempting to identify the nationality of the forces involved in the contact.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment. The data are subject to change as more information becomes available.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ISAF-trained Afghan National Army personnel worked in partnership with UK forces between (a) 18 May 2009 and 4 October 2009, (b) 5 October 2009 and 21 February 2010, (c) 22 February 2010 and 11 July 2010 and (d) 12 July 2010 and 28 November 2010. [40822]

**Nick Harvey:** The information is not held in the format requested. However, the number of ISAF-trained Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel "present for duty", or available to conduct tasks in the Task Force Helmand (TFH) area of operations, is shown in the following table:

| Period                             | Total number of ANA in Task Force Helmand area of operations | Reductions in Task Force Helmand area of operations                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 May 2009 to 4 October 2009      | 2,351                                                        | —                                                                                                                       |
| 5 October 2009 to 21 February 2010 | 2,312                                                        | —                                                                                                                       |
| 22 February 2010 to 11 July 2010   | 2,260                                                        | March 2010: Musa Qaleh transferred to US area of operations.<br>June 2010: Kajaki transferred to US area of operations. |
| 12 July 2010 to 28 November 2010   | 2,102                                                        | October 2010: Sangin transferred to US area of operations                                                               |

During the periods of time requested, the TFH area of operations was decreasing in size. Consequently, while the number of ANA personnel in the table appears to be decreasing overall, in fact there has been an improvement in the number of ANA in the TFH area of operations and in Helmand as a whole.

These figures are based on monthly averages and we are unable to ascertain daily figures. These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment. The data are subject to change as more information becomes available.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider the merits of making regular reports to Parliament on the deployed number of (a) ISAF-trained Afghan National Army personnel, (b) ISAF-trained Afghan National Army personnel working in partnership with UK forces and (c) ISAF-in-training Afghan National Army personnel. [40823]

**Nick Harvey:** The development of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) is a key element in delivering our national security objectives in Afghanistan. For this reason we ensure that the regular written reports we provide to the House on Afghanistan include updates on the growth and development of the ANSF, including in the UK area of operations.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence, gave the latest of our quarterly oral updates to the House on 14 February 2010, *Official Report*, columns 732-46), as the latest Quarterly Report as part of the Government's commitment to keep Parliament informed on progress made in Afghanistan.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatalities there were in Afghanistan among ISAF-trained Afghan National Army personnel (1) working in Afghanistan in partnership with (a) UK forces, (b) US forces and (c) Canadian forces between (i) 18 May 2009 and 4 October 2009, (ii) 5 October 2009 and 21 February 2010, (iii) 22 February 2010 and 11 July 2010 and (iv) 12 July 2010 and 28 November 2010; [40824]

(2) between (a) 18 May 2009 and 4 October 2009, (b) 5 October 2009 and 21 February 2010, (c) 22 February 2010 and 11 July 2010 and (d) 12 July 2010 and 28 November 2010. [40825]

**Nick Harvey:** This is a matter for the Government of Afghanistan. We do not hold information on the number of Afghan National Security Forces fatalities.

### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the pension entitlement will be of a member of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme who retires after 30 years' full-time service on a salary of (a) £10,000, (b) £15,000, (c) £20,000, (d) £25,000, (e) £30,000, (f) £40,000 and (g) £50,000 if the pension is updated in line with (i) the retail prices index and (ii) the consumer prices index. [40366]

**Mr Robathan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Minister for International Security Strategy, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth), gave on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 587-589W, to the hon. Members for West Dunbartonshire (Gemma Doyle) and for North Durham (Mr Jones).

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme of the proposed indexation according to the consumer prices index (a) in 2010-11 and (b) in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years. [40383]

**Mr Robathan:** The change in indexation from retail prices index (RPI) to consumer prices index (CPI) will not come into effect until April 2011. No assessment of the kind requested can be made as future movements of the RPI and CPI rates are not known.

### Christmas Island: Radioactive Waste

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the location is of the (a) toxic and (b) radiologically-contaminated waste recovered as a result of the remediation programme conducted on Christmas Island following the nuclear tests conducted in the 1950s; what site licences cover the disposals; and what the cost to the public purse was of the clean-up and remediation programme. [40668]

**Mr Robathan:** The majority of waste recovered was inert and largely comprised of metal.

Toxic or otherwise hazardous waste, including radioactive materials were transported back to the UK for disposal.

Lead, asbestos and 'exempt' radioactive radium wastes were consigned to landfill in Middlesbrough, at a facility suitably licensed to receive this material. Some 18.7 tonnes of uncontaminated lead was recycled at South Darley. Low level radioactive radium waste was sent via Winfrith, an organisation licensed to handle such material, to the UK low level waste repository in Drigg, Cumbria.



which is licensed to accept such waste. The radioactive waste largely consisted of luminised dials from abandoned vehicles.

The cost of the clean-up and remediation programme was £9.1 million. The cost has risen from that previously given in answers to parliamentary questions due to the resolution of outstanding contractual issues.

#### Defence: Procurement

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the (a) names, (b) job titles and (c) dates of office were of the senior responsible owners for the Typhoon project; [36375]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 221-2W, on defence: procurement, who the senior responsible officers (SROs) were for the (a) Nimrod MRA4, (b) future integrated soldier technology, (c) Queen Elizabeth class carrier and (d) future rapid effect system project; and between what dates each served as SRO. [36579]

**Peter Luff** [holding answer 27 January 2011]: Further to the answer given by the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan) on 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 990W, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence has written to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee providing the

information requested. A copy of the Permanent Secretary's letter to the Committee will be placed in the Library of the House.

#### Defence: Sales

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what serviceable (a) aircraft, (b) vessels and (c) weapons systems his Department has sold since 1997; and how much it received from each such sale. [33749]

**Mr Gerald Howarth:** I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

*Substantive answer from Gerald Howarth to Andrew Rosindell:*

Further to the holding response I provided to your question about serviceable aircraft, vessels and weapons systems that have been sold since 1997 (*Official Report* dated 19 January 2011; column 826W), I am writing to provide a substantive response.

Serviceable equipment is characterised as that which has been sold to other governments for continued use as defence assets rather than those sold to commercial enterprises, either for use in another capacity or for recycling. Sales to other governments have the potential to strengthen international relationships; generate income that can be re-invested in defence; allows other governments to contribute to international security; and can also provide UK industry with opportunities to undertake some of the equipment regeneration work to meet the customer's requirements.

Details of aircraft, vessels (surface warships and submarines) and stand alone weapons systems that have been sold to other governments since 1997 are enclosed at Annex A.

I hope this is helpful.

Annex A—Dated January 2011

*Sales of defence equipment to other governments since 1997*

|                                                  | Equipment                                                                                                                                                      | Purchaser           | Revenue (£ million)        |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Aircraft</i>                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |                     |                            |
| 1997                                             | 6 x Wessex helicopters                                                                                                                                         | Uruguay             | Information no longer held |
| 1999                                             | 2 x Hercules                                                                                                                                                   | Sri Lanka           | 64.0 (combined)            |
| 2003                                             | 3 x Hercules                                                                                                                                                   | Austria             | 34.0 (combined)            |
| 2005                                             | 1 x Hercules                                                                                                                                                   | Netherlands         | Information no longer held |
| <i>Vessels (surface warships and submarines)</i> |                                                                                                                                                                |                     |                            |
| 1997                                             | HMS Plover (Patrol vessel)<br>HMS Peacock (Patrol Vessel)<br>HMS Starling (Patrol Vessel)                                                                      | Philippines         | 7.5 (combined)             |
| 1998                                             | HMS Upholder (Submarine)<br>HMS Unicorn (Submarine)<br>HMS Ursula (Submarine)<br>HMS Unseen (Submarine)                                                        | Canada              | 227.4 (combined)           |
| 2000                                             | HMS Bicester (Mine Countermeasure)<br>HMS Berkely (Mine Countermeasure)<br>HMS Orkney (Patrol Vessel)                                                          | Greece              | 10.0 (combined)            |
| 2001                                             | HMS Orwell (Patrol Vessel)                                                                                                                                     | Trinidad and Tobago | 1.5                        |
| 2002                                             | HMS London (Type 22 Frigate)<br>HMS Coventry (Type 22 Frigate)                                                                                                 | Guyana              | 1.5                        |
|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                | Romania             | 116.0 (combined)           |
| 2003                                             | HMS Shetland (Patrol Vessel)<br>HMS Alderney (Patrol Vessel)<br>HMS Anglesey (Patrol Vessel)<br>HMS Lindsfarne (Patrol Vessel)<br>HMS Guernsey (Patrol Vessel) | Bangladesh          | 8.0 (combined)             |
| 2003                                             | HMS Sheffield (Type 22 Frigate)                                                                                                                                | Chile               | 27.0                       |
| 2005                                             | HMS Marlborough (Type 23 Frigate)<br>HMS Norfolk (Type 23 Frigate)<br>HMS Grafton (Type 23 Frigate)                                                            | Chile               | 134.0 (combined)           |

Sales of defence equipment to other governments since 1997

|                        | Equipment                                  | Purchaser  | Revenue (£ million)                                            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2007                   | HMS Sandown (Minehunter)                   | Estonia    | 32.0 (combined)                                                |
|                        | HMS Bridport (Minehunter)                  |            |                                                                |
|                        | HMS Inverness (Minehunter)                 |            |                                                                |
|                        | RFA Sir Galahad (Landing Ship Logistics)   | Brazil     | 5.2                                                            |
| 2008                   | RFA Sir Bedivere ((Landing Ship Logistics) | Brazil     | 10.0                                                           |
|                        | HMS Cottessmore (Mine Countermeasure)      | Lithuania  | £155.0 (this sale was concluded in euros rather than sterling) |
|                        | HMS Dulverton (Mine Countermeasure)        |            |                                                                |
| 2010                   | HMS Dumbarton Castle (Patrol Vessel)       | Bangladesh | 2.4 (combined)                                                 |
|                        | HMS Leeds Castle (Patrol Vessel)           |            |                                                                |
| <i>Weapons systems</i> |                                            |            |                                                                |
| 2001                   | 20 x Rapier Cascade Missile System         | Australia  | 0.68                                                           |

**Notes:**

1. Sales agreements are negotiated on an individual basis and they are never "like-for-like". For example, some sales may include onboard systems, training and spare equipment support while others will exclude these elements. Comparisons between the sales of similar equipment should not, therefore, be made.

2. The costs provided represent the total combined revenue for the MOD and its industrial partners who, for example, carry out the work to regenerate the equipment.

**Depleted Uranium**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium shells were fired into the Irish sea from ranges operated by his Department in each year since 2007. [40995]

**Nick Harvey:** 20 depleted uranium shells were test-fired from the Ministry of Defence-owned Kirkcudbright Range (in Scotland) into the Solway Firth, which feeds into the Irish sea, on 11 and 12 March 2008. No other depleted uranium test firings have taken place since.

**Munitions**

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department expects to spend on loitering munitions in 2010-11; [41046]

(2) whether he is reviewing his Department's contracts for loitering munitions; [41047]

(3) what discussions his Department is having with defence contractors responsible for loitering munitions; [41049]

(4) if he will make it his policy to announce any changes to contracts for procurement of loitering munitions between his Department and defence contractors. [41050]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence expects to spend some £50 million on loitering munitions during the financial year 2010-11.

As part of normal business, we conduct regular and ongoing engagements with prime contractors, including MBDA for the supply of loitering munitions.

There are currently no plans to review contracts for loitering munitions. However, as part of our wider contract renegotiating strategy, all major equipment procurements will be reviewed for possible savings measures.

The Department's approach to announcing any contractual changes relating to loitering munitions will continue to be subject to the usual processes and conditions governing the procurement of war-like stores.

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimates his Department has made on

potential cost savings in the procurement of loitering munitions equipment. [41048]

**Peter Luff:** The United Kingdom's loitering munition capability is currently being procured as part of the Department's wider portfolio approach towards acquiring complex weapons. This approach was launched in April 2010 and will secure significant efficiencies of some £1.2 billion across the breadth of the complex weapons portfolio over the next 10 years and is designed to meet the United Kingdom's military requirement and safeguard our operational sovereignty.

**Nimrod Aircraft**

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what airborne (a) electronic intelligence and (b) intelligence, surveillance, target co-operation and reconnaissance capability will remain to HM Armed Forces after the withdrawal of the Nimrod R1; when the Nimrod R1 will be withdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [39760]

**Peter Luff:** After the withdrawal of the Nimrod R1 on 31 March 2011 the following airborne intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance capabilities will remain available to our armed forces: Sentry, Sentinel, Tornado GR 4 when fitted with a RAPTOR or Litening III pod, Typhoon when fitted with a Litening III pod, Sea King Mk7, Reaper Remotely Piloted Air System and Hermes 450 UAS.

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many specialist RAF personnel formally employed on the MRA4 project will be (a) retained and (b) made redundant. [39761]

**Peter Luff:** At the time of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) announcement there were approximately 242 RAF personnel directly involved in the MRA4 project. The number of Nimrod-related personnel to be made redundant under the Regular Armed Forces Redundancy Programme will not be known until the process has concluded. In line with normal practice, where a role comes to an end, the RAF will seek to reassign Nimrod-related personnel elsewhere

within the service. However, in order to sustain the long-term balance and structure of the RAF, while implementing personnel reductions planned as part of SDSR, some personnel may be made redundant. We will seek to achieve this through voluntary applications, but it may be necessary to make some reductions through compulsory redundancies.

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the physical destruction of the MRA4 airframes was initiated; and by whom the decision was taken to release images of this process to the media. [39762]

**Peter Luff:** Having taken the decision not to bring the Nimrod MR4A into service, I considered a range of options and concluded that the most cost-effective one was for the nine aircraft to be disposed of following recovery of equipment and systems that can be used elsewhere.

Photographs of the dismantling process were not released by the Ministry of Defence to the media.

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to preserve the (a) airborne and (b) ground-based components of the EL/8300 Electronic Support Measures system, together with other equipment formerly intended for the MRA4; what assessment he has made of the possibility of using such equipment in conjunction with alternative platforms; and if he will make a statement. [39763]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 1024W, to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson).

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the cancelled MRA4 aircraft had been flown; and how many flights in total had been undertaken. [39764]

**Peter Luff:** At the time of the decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service, only two of the nine production aircraft (PA04 and PA05) had flown. PA04 had completed 16 flights and PA05 had completed two flights. Both aircraft were piloted by BAE Systems crew and the Ministry of Defence had yet to complete its formal scrutiny of the aircraft design to allow the aircraft to enter into RAF service.

#### Nuclear Submarines

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of items for propulsion for the first three boats to be purchased ahead of the Trident replacement main gate decision. [40546]

**Nick Harvey:** The programme to replace the Vanguard class of submarines has yet to enter the assessment phase. During this phase a number of long-lead items relating to propulsion will be ordered so as not to put at risk the in-service date of the Trident replacement. Final decisions on exactly what long-lead items will be required, and when, have yet to be taken.

The value of these long-lead items will be dependent on the work programme to be approved at initial gate. Moreover, we do not routinely publish figures for anticipated project expenditure as to do so would prejudice commercial interests.

#### Nuclear Weapons

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of those contracts for long-lead items for the Trident replacement programme that were suspended in May 2010 pending the result of the value for money review. [40530]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence had no such contracts in place. An order worth approximately \$3 million, placed on behalf of the United Kingdom between the United States Government and a United States supplier for materials related to propulsion, was deferred. Following the Value for Money review, which re-iterated our commitment to a replacement nuclear deterrent programme, the order was placed in November 2010.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date it will be necessary to make long-lead purchases prior to the Trident replacement main gate decision. [40550]

**Nick Harvey:** Contracts will be placed at the appropriate times throughout the assessment phase for those long-lead items that are included in initial gate to ensure we meet the in-service date of the Trident replacement.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for Parliamentary scrutiny of the Trident replacement programme prior to the main gate decision. [40551]

**Nick Harvey:** The Main Gate decision for the programme to replace the Vanguard class is expected to take place during the next Parliament. Therefore it will be for the next Government to decide on the parliamentary engagement required prior to Main Gate.

#### Strategic Defence and Security Review

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from whom his Department received written submissions to the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [41573]

**Dr Fox:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 856W, to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (Jonathan Edwards) and 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 993W, to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

#### DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

##### Prime Minister

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what responsibilities he has in the event that the Prime Minister is incapacitated and unable to carry out his duties. [34017]



**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The Prime Minister remains Prime Minister at all times but arrangements, appropriate at the time, would be put in place as necessary, as has been the practice under successive Administrations.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Products: Clones

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the use of the offspring of cloned animals in food production. [40835]

**Mr Paice:** The Food Standards Agency's (FSA's) current interpretation of the EU Novel Foods Regulation is that approval should be sought before food from the offspring of cloned animals can be sold for human consumption. However, the European Commission interprets the legislation as applying only to food from cloned animals themselves.

The Board of the FSA discussed animal cloning at its open meeting on 7 December and subsequently advised Ministers that there were no food safety grounds for regulating foods from the descendants of cloned cattle and pigs and that it was minded to change its interpretation of the legislation. The FSA sought the views of interested parties on changing its interpretation, with a closing date of 10 February, and is currently considering responses from interested parties.

For the future, the Government shares the Commission's view that there should be no restrictions on the use of offspring of cloned animals.

### Animal Welfare

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on promotion of the neutering of cats and dogs by their owners. [39463]

**Mr Paice:** The statutory Codes of Practice on the Welfare of Cats and Dogs, made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and providing owners with information on how to meet the welfare needs of their animals, explain the benefits of having cats and dogs neutered and the drawbacks of not doing so. The Codes, together with the regular neutering promotion campaigns by animal welfare organisations, provide owners with ample opportunities to learn more about and take advantage of neutering their cat or dog.

### Animal Welfare: Circuses

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to announce proposals arising from her Department's public consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses. [40268]

**Mr Paice [holding answer 15 February 2011]:** We are currently considering the 13,000 or so responses to our consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses before we publish a summary. In the meantime, Lord Henley has been meeting with representatives of welfare

groups and the circus industry. An industry body has proposed a self-regulatory system, but no final decisions have yet been made.

### Circuses: Animal Welfare

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish the conclusions of the review of the use of wild animals in circuses. [41117]

**Mr Paice:** We are currently considering the 13,000 or so responses to our consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses before we publish a summary. In the meantime, Lord Henley has been meeting with representatives of welfare groups and the circus industry.

### Arctic Resources

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to call for (a) an end to the exploitation of Arctic resources and (b) no further resource extraction to be permitted in the Arctic region until the completion of research into the potential risks of such extraction; and if she will work with her European counterparts to develop a co-ordinated EU policy to this effect. [41578]

**Charles Hendry:** I have been asked to reply.

No. We fully recognise the need to ensure protection of the Arctic region, while also noting that environmentally sensitive exploitation of its oil and gas resources has the potential to play an important role in the UK's and wider global energy security. Decisions on resource extraction in the region are also primarily a matter for the Arctic states concerned. We therefore support such extraction so long as robust environmental and safety standards are applied.

### Birds

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the (a) effects of and (b) factors underlying the decline in the size of the songbird population. [41500]

**Richard Benyon:** We have not commissioned a specific study to assess the effects of songbird population declines. Ecosystems and their constituent species provide human societies with 'ecosystem services', such as the regulation of pollution, provision of clean water, food, recreation and general well-being. Species interactions within ecosystems are complex and so declines in songbird populations may affect the services delivered. The UK's National Ecosystem Assessment is an independent assessment of the ecosystem services we get from nature, how they have changed over the last 50 years and how the choices we make may affect them in the future. The assessment is due to report in spring 2011 and will inform the development of the Natural Environment White Paper.

The reasons for the long-term declines in songbirds vary from species to species but in farmland habitats are relatively well understood and relate largely to the intensification of agriculture, such as the loss of spring-sown crops, weedy stubbles and hedges and the increased use

of pesticides and fertilizers. These changes have reduced the availability of nest sites and food resources such as insects and seeds.

Declines in other habitats are less well understood and we are funding ongoing research on woodland birds. Also through our conservation advisers, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, in partnership with bird conservation and research charities, we fund the majority of the monitoring that is summarised in the annual publication of the State of UK Birds which gives an overview of the recent patterns of change and the latest research to understand the underlying factors.

#### Common Fisheries Policy

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she plans to have with the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on fish discards. [39387]

**Richard Benyon:** The UK is committed to reducing discards which are a clear waste of natural resources. This position is shared with Commissioner Damanaki (Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) who has publicly committed to tackling this unsustainable practice.

The UK is at the forefront of tackling discards, taking action domestically and by working to identify solutions at an EU level. We have undertaken a number of initiatives that have delivered excellent results. Project 50%, a collaborative project between fishermen and Government saw discards in the South West sole fishery reduced by over 50%. We are also pioneering an alternative "catch quota" management system which is based on managing and monitoring what is caught not just what is landed. Cod discards by those vessels in the trial have been reduced significantly as participants have been incentivised to fish much more selectively.

The common fisheries policy contributes significantly to the problem of discards and it is essential that it is fundamentally reformed. I have made this clear in my discussions with the Commissioner and am ensuring that crucial evidence gathered from the UK's discard reduction work is being used to influence and shape reform. I will be meeting the Commissioner and other European Ministers again on 1 March at a Discards summit; this will be another excellent opportunity for the UK to steer thinking and to pursue its aim of working to end this wasteful practice.

#### Dairy Farming

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dairy farms there are in England; and what the average subsidy paid to each farm was in the latest period for which figures are available. [41118]

**Mr Paice:** Data from the June survey indicate that there were 9,739 dairy farms in England in 2009.

Data from the Farm Business Survey for dairy farms in England show that during the 12-month period ending February 2010, the average level of total support payment received by dairy farmers was £32,300. This figure includes an average 2009 single farm payment of £27,300 and agri-environment scheme payments which

averaged just under £4,000 per farm. The remaining £1,000 comprised compensation for bovine tuberculosis and some other smaller payments.

#### Dangerous Dogs

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual cost to her Department was of kennelling dogs seized (a) by Merseyside Police and (b) nationally in 2010. [40341]

**Richard Benyon [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** No costs are incurred by DEFRA in respect of kennelling seized dogs. These costs are borne by the relevant police authority.

#### Departmental Communications Officers

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many (a) press officers, (b) internal communications officers, (c) external communications officers, (d) communications strategy officers and (e) other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) her Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38954]

**Richard Benyon [holding answer 9 February 2011]:** Communication structures in DEFRA, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are currently being reviewed and the sizes of teams are changing. For example, by 1 April 2011 the Environment Agency will have reduced communication directorate staff numbers by approximately 30%.

The information set out in the following table was provided for a cross-Government exercise co-ordinated by Cabinet Office and HMT in March 2010. Job descriptions will vary from organisation to organisation.

Detailed figures relating to smaller arm's length bodies are not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

|                                         | Number |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Press officers</i>                   |        |
| DEFRA                                   | 20.0   |
| Animal Health                           | 1.5    |
| British Waterways                       | 4.0    |
| CEFAS                                   | 0.3    |
| Environment Agency                      | 31     |
| FERA                                    | 1.0    |
| Kew                                     | 0      |
| Natural England                         | 5.0    |
| Rural Payments Agency                   | 0.5    |
| VLA                                     | 0      |
| Total                                   | 63.3   |
| <i>Internal communications officers</i> |        |
| DEFRA                                   | 10.0   |
| Animal Health                           | 1.5    |
| British Waterways                       | 2.0    |
| CEFAS                                   | 0.2    |

|                       | Number |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Environment Agency    | 13     |
| FERA                  | 0      |
| Kew                   | 0      |
| Natural England       | 4.5    |
| Rural Payments Agency | 4.0    |
| VLA                   | 2.5    |
| Total                 | 37.7   |

*External communication officers—  
Marketing*

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| DEFRA                 | 10.0 |
| Animal Health         | 2.0  |
| British Waterways     | 8.0  |
| CEFAS                 | 0    |
| Environment Agency    | 72   |
| FERA                  | 4.5  |
| Kew                   | 0    |
| Natural England       | 4.0  |
| Rural Payments Agency | 1.5  |
| VLA                   | 3.0  |
| Total                 | 105  |

*Communication strategy officers*

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| DEFRA                 | 6.0  |
| Animal Health         | 1.5  |
| British Waterways     | 0    |
| CEFAS                 | 0    |
| Environment Agency    | 77   |
| FERA                  | 0    |
| Kew                   | 0    |
| Natural England       | 0    |
| Rural Payments Agency | 0    |
| VLA                   | 0    |
| Total                 | 84.5 |

*Other communication positions  
includes managerial and support  
staff*

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| DEFRA             | 8.0 |
| Animal Health     | 3.0 |
| British Waterways | 3.0 |
| CEFAS             | 0   |

|                       | Number |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Environment Agency    | 24     |
| FERA                  | 0      |
| Kew                   | 4.0    |
| Natural England       | 6.0    |
| Rural Payments Agency | 8.0    |
| VLA                   | 2.0    |
| Total                 | 58     |

**Dogs: Electric Shock Equipment**

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what date she expects her Department's research project on the implications for the welfare of dogs of electric shock collars to be completed; and what plans she has to publish recommendations arising from the project. [39462]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA's study into the effect of pet training aids, specifically remote static pulse systems, on the welfare of domestic dogs will be completed later this year. As with all research, findings must be subject to peer review before publication takes place.

**Public Forest Estate: Sales**

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which sites sold by the Forestry Commission in each constituency have been sold since May 2010; what the size was of each such site; and how much funding was raised from each sale. [40424]

**Mr Paice:** In May 2010 Ministers inherited a programme of forestry sales from the financial year 2010-11 which had already commenced. Both the criteria and list were drawn up by the previous administration. The coalition Government has committed to review the safeguards that are in place in order to secure public benefits. Accordingly the coalition Government has suspended the 2011-12 sales programme in order to ensure adequate protections are in place.

The Forestry Commission does not record sales by constituency. The following table gives details, by county, of land sold by the Forestry Commission since May 2010.

| Date of Sale      | Wood name                         | County          | AREA (ha) | Selling price (£) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 22 October 2010   | College Wood, Biggleswade         | Bedfordshire    | 15        | 137,520           |
| 30 September 2010 | Whitfield Wood, Brackley          | Buckinghamshire | 38        | 353,000           |
| 15 December 2010  | Stanley Beck, Wolsingham Rd       | County Durham   | 31        | 121,500           |
| 24 January 2011   | The Stang                         | County Durham   | 525       | 3,253,444         |
| 15 October 2010   | Rigg Wood, Coniston               | Cumbria         | 16        | 116,000           |
| 1 December 2010   | High Loft Wood, Cartmel Fell      | Cumbria         | 23        | 156,550           |
| 8 December 2010   | Hoggarth's Plantation, Ulverston  | Cumbria         | 27        | 205,000           |
| 4 January 2011    | Park Wood, Bassenthwaite          | Cumbria         | 42        | 250,000           |
| 19 January 2011   | Broomrigg Estate, Ainstable       | Cumbria         | 120       | 499,950           |
| 26 January 2011   | Park Wood, Bassenthwaite          | Cumbria         | 11        | 150,000           |
| 3 February 2011   | Crople How Plantation, Ravenglass | Cumbria         | 39        | 201,501           |
| 3 December 2010   | Croftmoor Plantation, Halwill     | Devon           | 12        | 98,000            |
| 10 June 2010      | Black Down, Dorchester            | Dorset          | 114       | 355,000           |
| 8 September 2010  | The Stang                         | Durham          | 71        | 42,000            |
| 20 August 2010    | High Wood, Uckfield               | East Sussex     | 20        | 140,000           |
| 1 February 2011   | Boxall's and Cobden's Copse       | Hampshire       | 9         | 111,700           |
| 12 October 2010   | Buslingthorpe Wood                | Lincolnshire    | 22        | 115,908           |



| Date of Sale     | Wood name                         | County           | AREA (ha) | Selling price (£) |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 29 October 2010  | Swanton Novers Wood               | Norfolk          | 172       | 315,000           |
| 7 January 2011   | Great Heath Plantation, Thursford | Norfolk          | 41        | 183,667           |
| 1 December 2010  | Bonny Cliff Plantation, Faceby    | North Yorkshire  | 61        | 40,000            |
| 8 December 2010  | Birch Plantation, Towthorpe       | North Yorkshire  | 3         | 8,000             |
| 25 January 2011  | Kissthorn Wood, Sand Hutton       | North Yorkshire  | 3         | 35,162            |
| 11 November 2010 | Priesthay Wood, Brackley          | Northamptonshire | 6         | 60,100            |
| 22 December 2010 | Wicken Wood, Lillingstone Lovell  | Northamptonshire | 78        | 200,000           |
| 26 October 2010  | Darcliff Wood, Nottinghamshire    | Nottinghamshire  | 18        | 75,000            |
| 30 November 2010 | Cutts Long Belt, Rufford          | Nottinghamshire  | 13        | 112,050           |
| 7 December 2010  | Annesley, Friezeland              | Nottinghamshire  | 20        | 70,000            |
| 7 December 2010  | Little Oak Plantation, Annesley   | Nottinghamshire  | 9         | 33,000            |
| 7 October 2010   | Pontesford Hill                   | Shropshire       | 33        | 102,726           |
| 3 December 2010  | Acton Burnell Park, Shrewsbury    | Shropshire       | 84        | 150,000           |
| 6 May 2010       | Middle Hill, Chipstable           | Somerset         | 36        | 75,000            |
| 25 June 2010     | Hugset Wood, Barnsley             | South Yorkshire  | 33        | 150,105           |

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the contribution to biodiversity of established conifer plantations owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. [40899]

**Mr Paice** [holding answer 14 February 2011]: The publication 'Biodiversity in Britain's Planted Forests' (2003) brings together results from the Forestry Commission's Biodiversity Assessment Project to provide an in-depth assessment of the contribution of coniferous forests to biodiversity.

The Forestry Commission's Forest Design Planning process makes assessment of all areas of the public forest estate including many nationally and internationally important areas of coniferous forest.

#### Public Forest Estate: Deer

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on the welfare of deer of the implementation of her proposals for the disposal of Forestry Commission land. [39546]

**Mr Paice:** Deer occur in most woodland. The Deer Initiative, a broad stakeholder partnership, promotes best practice in deer management and offers advice to all landowners on this. The Forestry Commission England remains committed to continuing its support for the Deer Initiative.

#### Gangmasters Licensing Authority: Finance

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has allocated to the Gangmasters Licensing Authority over the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [40601]

**Mr Paice:** The indicative annual funding<sup>1</sup> allocations notified to the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) for the spending review period total £4.2 million in 2011-12, £4.0 million in 2012-13, £4.0 million in 2013-14 and £3.9 million in 2014-15, as set out in the following table.

Indicative funding for 2011-12 remains at the same level as for 2010-11, and over the following three years, the proposed funding for enforcement carried out by GLA on behalf of Defra will remain at £2.6 million. However, the Grant in Aid provided to fund the cost of operating the GLA licensing scheme will be reduced annually so that by 2014-15 it will be approximately £0.35 million less than in 2011-12.

The notification to GLA is on the basis that the resource allocations may need to be adjusted in the light of circumstances over the spending review period; and that commitments for 2011-12 should for now be held to 95% of the indicated allocation.

| £ million      |              |             |       |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
| Financial year | Grant in Aid | Enforcement | Total |
| 2011-12        | 1.634        | 2.597       | 4.231 |
| 2012-13        | 1.418        | 2.597       | 4.015 |
| 2013-14        | 1.376        | 2.597       | 3.973 |
| 2014-15        | 1.291        | 2.597       | 3.888 |

This information is also available on the Defra website at:

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/reports>

<sup>1</sup> All figures rounded to the nearest £100,000.

#### Inland Waterways: Avon

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in consideration of the application for cruiseway status for the Kennet and Avon Canal. [41562]

**Richard Benyon:** British Waterways has applied for a ministerial order under section 104(3) of the Transport Act 1968 (the Act) to be made in order to reclassify the 'remainder' parts of the Kennet and Avon canal to become a cruising waterway. Following public consultation as required under the Act, two objections to the order were received. A response from British Waterways to the issues raised in the objections was sought, and this was sent by DEFRA on 20 January 2011 to the bodies who had objected, with a request for them to confirm whether they would be content to withdraw their objections or to make any further comments. Responses have only just been received confirming neither objection had

been withdrawn. A decision by the Secretary of State on whether to allow the application for an order by British Waterways will be made in due course.

#### Irish Sea: Pollution

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of ships illegally flushing their tanks in the Irish sea were reported to her Department in each of the past 10 years. [41036]

**Mike Penning:** I have been asked to reply.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has not received any direct reports relating to incidents of ships illegally flushing tanks in the Irish sea over the last 10 years.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many oil spills or leaks in the Irish Sea have been reported to her Department in each of the past 10 years; and what the type of leak was in each case. [41040]

**Richard Benyon:** Since 1 April 2010, the Marine Management Organisation has dealt with marine pollution incidents on behalf of DEFRA. DEFRA/MMO records for marine pollution go back to 2004, however, until January 2010 information such as location, quantity and source were not recorded for all spills. The following table shows data for the Irish sea from 2010:

| Date              | Location                                       | Source                              | Type            | Quantity                     |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 21 December 2010  | Walney offshore wind farm                      | Remotely operated underwater vessel | Hydraulic oil   | 8 litres                     |
| 1 November 2010   | Walney offshore wind farm                      | Unknown                             | Hydraulic oil   | Unknown—light sheen reported |
| 26 September 2010 | Morecambe gas field—18 nautical miles offshore | Firewater pump                      | Mineral gas oil | 2,000 litres                 |
| 24 June 2010      | Pwllheli                                       | Unknown                             | Diesel          | Unknown—light sheen reported |
| 8 May 2010        | Aberystwyth                                    | Yacht                               | Diesel          | 1.5 gallons                  |
| 18 May 2010       | Port Penrhyn                                   | Sunken fishing vessel               | Diesel          | 2 gallons                    |

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), acting on behalf of the Department for Transport, collects more detailed data on marine oil spills. The MCA commission the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) to produce annual surveys of marine pollution attributed to shipping or offshore installations. These reports contain detailed information which is broken down by region (the Irish sea is one such region). The ACOPS reports are available online at:

<http://www.acops.org.uk/acops-reports/>

#### National Nature Reserves

**Bob Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the potential sale of National Nature Reserves. [41389]

**Richard Benyon:** Natural England has been investigating different management options for National Nature Reserves and Ministers have had a number of discussions with officials, Natural England and non-governmental organisations at which these have been covered.

#### Noise: National Policy Statements

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ilford North of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 522W, on local authorities: antisocial behaviour, what progress her Department has made in implementing the Noise Policy Statement for England. [40314]

**Richard Benyon:** The Government's policy on noise is set out in the Noise Policy Statement for England

(NPSE) which was published in March 2010. It contains the high level vision of promoting good health and good quality of life (well being) through the effective management of noise. It is supported by three aims and together they provide the necessary clarity and direction to enable decisions to be made in any particular situation, both nationally and locally, regarding what is an acceptable noise burden to place on society.

Implementation of the policy will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of noise and will reduce the circumstances where noise has a significant adverse impact on health and well being.

To implement this, officials have been working closely with other Government Departments to ensure the NPSE is reflected in relevant policies. For example, the consultation documents for the Public Health White Paper, "Proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework" and the Local Transport White Paper all contain references to the NPSE.

Officials have also been working with other stakeholders to demonstrate how the NPSE can enable decisions to be made regarding what is an acceptable noise burden to place on society, at a local level.

#### Palm Oil Crops

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with Wetlands International on the effect of the growth of palm oil crops on biodiversity. [41253]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA records show that the Department has not held any discussions with Wetlands International on the effect of the growth of palm oil crops on biodiversity.

**Pets**

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the number of dogs and cats available for sale (a) through classified advertisements and (b) via online sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [41255]

**Mr Paice:** We have no current plans to assess the number of dogs and cats available for sale through classified advertisements or via online sources. The independent Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG), consisting of representatives from animal welfare organisations, media publishing companies, industry, DEFRA and the police, have provided sound advice for both advertisers of pets for sale (in the press and on the internet) and potential new owners. The group also facilitates enforcement action where appropriate. More information about PAAG can be found at:

<http://paag.org.uk/>

**Rabbits**

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her

Department plans to publish a code of practice on the welfare of pet rabbits. [41254]

**Mr Paice:** We have no current plans to publish a code of practice on the welfare of pet rabbits. We consider that the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to provide for the welfare needs of animals are sufficient to ensure the necessary protection for the welfare of pet rabbits.

**Squirrels**

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many licences were issued by Natural England for the release of grey squirrels into the wild in each year since 2008. [39904]

**Richard Benyon:** The number of licences issued by Natural England for the release of grey squirrels into the wild in each year since 2008 is given in the following table.

|      | Applications | Licences granted | Rehabilitation | Purpose        |                     |
|------|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
|      |              |                  |                | Animal welfare | Scientific research |
| 2008 | 8            | 6                | 2              | 4              | —                   |
| 2009 | 8            | 8                | 7              | —              | 1                   |
| 2010 | 12           | 11               | 8              | —              | 3                   |

**Waste Disposal: Devonport Dockyard**

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish copies of written communications from her Department to the Ministry of Defence on the decision of the South West Waste Partnership (a) to site a waste to energy plant in Devonport Naval Base and (b) link the power so provided to Babcock Marine. [39857]

**Richard Benyon:** It is not normal practice to publish written communications between Government Departments (either on our website, or through other general media channels), although these are often released to the public as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

In the interest of open Government, if the hon. Member informs me of any specific questions she has about the project, I will endeavour to answer them.

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT****Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced People**

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the development implications of the displacement of people in northern and eastern Sri Lanka following the creation of High Security Zones. [41060]

**Mr Duncan:** We are aware of the creation of high security zones in some parts of northern and eastern Sri Lanka which had originally been occupied by people displaced by conflict. It is important that effective arrangements are made to provide fair, adequate and timely compensation to displaced people who are unable to return to their original home and land.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of humanitarian conditions for internally displaced people in government-controlled camps in Sri Lanka. [41061]

**Mr Duncan:** Department for International Development (DFID) officials visited the camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Sri Lanka in November 2010. Since the end of the conflict in May 2009, the situation of IDPs has improved significantly. The number of people in the camps has reduced from about 300,000 to about 18,000. It is expected that most of those remaining will leave the camps during this year and return to their home.

**Sudan: Overseas Aid**

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department is providing to northern Sudan. [41541]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** There are serious humanitarian challenges in northern Sudan, particularly in the Darfur region, the three Eastern States (Red Sea, Kassala, and



Gedaref) and in the Three Areas (Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan, and Abyei). The UK's biggest contribution to humanitarian assistance in Sudan is through the UN-managed Common Humanitarian Fund. In 2009 (which is the last year for which we have confirmed results), the UK's assistance to the Common Humanitarian Fund provided emergency shelter and essential household items for two million people, sustained a water supply to 725,000 people, delivered antenatal care for 100,000 pregnant women in Darfur, and rehabilitated eight primary health care centres serving more than 500,000 people. The UK delivers further humanitarian assistance in northern Sudan through our partnerships with NGOs such as MedAir International. For example, in the last six months of 2010, MedAir delivered 4,291 Safe Delivery Packs for pregnant women in West Darfur and Southern Kordofan.

#### United Nations

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the steps taken by the UN to improve its response to natural disasters; and if he will make a statement. [41638]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The UK Government remain committed to supporting the further strengthening of the international humanitarian system. The Department for International Development (DFID) has commissioned two major reviews which will help establish the UK's future approach when responding to natural disasters. The Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) is assessing value for money of UK contributions to multilateral organisations, including UN agencies and others covering humanitarian and disaster risk reduction issues, while the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR), an independent review assessing the UK's own humanitarian emergency response capability, will offer some reflections on our partnership with UN agencies during emergency responses. The conclusions of the MAR will be announced in the coming weeks and those of the HERR by the end of March.

DFID has also supported the development and implementation of the Central Humanitarian Response Fund (CERF) five-year evaluation and the second evaluation of country level Common Humanitarian Funds (CHF) in Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

#### World Bank

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking with his international counterparts to reform the World Bank; and if he will make a statement. [41637]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Our close cooperation with international counterparts secured an International Development Association (IDA) replenishment that led to a number of commitments by the World Bank to reform its effectiveness. These include a stronger focus on results, improvements to the way in which the bank assists fragile and conflict-affected states, improving its approach to the needs of girls and women, and the establishment of a crisis response facility to help poor countries facing shocks.

The Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) that is being carried out by my Department is assessing the effectiveness and value for money provided by multilateral organisations including the World Bank. It is identifying additional areas for reforms. We have worked closely with our international counterparts on this, and will continue to do so in supporting the bank to make further progress in these areas. I will announce the results of the MAR in the coming weeks.

#### HOME DEPARTMENT

##### Crimes of Violence: Females

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women who were the victims of (a) wounding and (b) grievous bodily harm had been previously stalked or harassed by the perpetrator in each year since 1998. [41493]

**James Brokenshire:** The information requested is not available centrally as police recorded crime data do not contain this level of detail.

The Government are committed to tackling all forms of violence against women and girls, including stalking, and published their vision and guiding principles in this area on 25 November 2010. A detailed range of supporting actions, including those on tackling stalking, will be published in the spring.

##### Drugs: Crime

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) cost and (b) outcomes for levels of drug crime in South Wales were of Operation Tarian. [40353]

**James Brokenshire:** Tarian's costs in 2009-10 totalled £5.3 million, £1.8 million of which was funded through direct grant from the Home Office.

Tarian has been responsible for a number of notable successes in recent years and for tackling increasing levels of criminality that exceed the capability and capacity of forces acting alone, making a substantial impact on the flow of drugs into South Wales and the finances of the organised crime groups operating within this area. Through its work there has been a substantial increase in understanding of the threat to South Wales from serious and organised crime. Tarian has reported that between 2005-06 and 2008-09, its Regional Task Force carried out over 100 operations/seizures, disrupted or dismantled over 70 organised crime groups and seized over 20 kg of heroin/cocaine. In 2010, Operation "Texas" tackled an organised crime group operating in South Wales, resulting in 11 defendants charged and 17.5 kg of heroin seized—the largest ever seizure of its kind in Welsh policing history.

Since the addition to Tarian of a Regional Asset Recovery Team, the value of confiscation and cash forfeiture orders made to date is in excess of £22.5 million, of which £13.4 million has been collected.

##### Police: Finance

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was allocated to police forces by central Government in each year since 2005-06. [37716]

**Mrs May** [*holding answer 1 February 2011*]: The information requested is shown in the following table.

| England and Wales |                                     |                       |                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Financial year    | Revenue funding and specific grants | Capital grant funding | £ billion           |
|                   |                                     |                       | Total grant funding |
| 2005-06           | 8.1                                 | 0.2                   | 8.3                 |
| 2006-07           | 8.6                                 | 0.2                   | 8.8                 |
| 2007-08           | 9.0                                 | 0.2                   | 9.2                 |
| 2008-09           | 9.3                                 | 0.2                   | 9.5                 |
| 2009-10           | 9.5                                 | 0.2                   | 9.8                 |
| 2010-11           | 9.7                                 | 0.2                   | 10.0                |

<sup>1</sup> Totals are calculated with un-round numbers. In some cases they are not the sum of the rounded components.

**Note:**

From 2006-07 funding for pensions and security funding became specific grants, and no longer part of general grant.

Figures comprise the Home Office police grant and certain specific grants and capital provision, and also the revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates (both provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government).

#### UK Border Agency: Peterborough City Council

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what services were provided to Peterborough City Council by the UK Border Agency at a cost of £27,000 as published on the Council's website on 10 February 2011; and if she will make a statement. [41639]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency funds local authorities for caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) or, in certain circumstances, the same children once they reach 18 years of age. The payment referred to on the Peterborough city council website of £27,983 to the UK Border Agency relates to a repayment of UASC grant money following the end of year reconciliation for 2009-10. The payment was made on 11 January 2010.

#### CABINET OFFICE

##### Average Earnings

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average gap between the earnings per hour of a full-time (a) female and (b) male worker was in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) 2010. [40800]

**Mr Hurd** [*holding answer 14 February 2011*]: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average gap between the earnings per hour of a full-time (a) female and (b) male worker was in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) 2010. (40800).

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and prior to 1997 from the New Earnings Survey (NES). They are carried out in April each year and are the most comprehensive source of earnings

information. The coverage of the survey was extended in ASHE from Great Britain to United Kingdom.

ONS's headline estimates of gender pay differences are based on median hourly earnings excluding overtime, but this measure is not available prior to 1997. Prior to 1997, estimates are only available for mean hourly earnings (excluding overtime) of full-time employees in Great Britain. Therefore, in order to achieve continuity of the earnings estimates used over the time period requested, mean hourly earnings (excluding overtime) in Great Britain has been used to answer this question.

I therefore attach a table showing the gender pay gap in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) 2010 for mean hourly earnings excluding overtime for all full-time male and female employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence, in Great Britain.

*Mean hourly pay excluding overtime earnings—gender pay gap for full-time employee jobs<sup>1</sup>: April 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 in Great Britain*

|      | All full-time male (£) | All full-time female (£) | Gender pay gap (percentage) |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1980 | 2.88                   | 2.06                     | 28.5                        |
| 1990 | 6.89                   | 5.27                     | 23.5                        |
| 2000 | 11.58                  | 9.22                     | 20.4                        |
| 2010 | 16.34                  | 13.77                    | 15.7                        |

<sup>1</sup> Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

**Source:**

1980 and 1990, New Earnings Survey (NES), Office for National Statistics.

2000 and 2010, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics.

#### Businesses: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new business start-ups there were in Bexley in each of the last three years. [39934]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new business start-ups there were in Bexley in each of the last three years. [39934]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at: [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

The table below contains the latest statistics, which show the number of enterprise births in Bexley for 2007, 2008 and 2009.

| Enterprise births in Bexley, 2007-09 |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
|                                      | Number |
| 2007                                 | 870    |
| 2008                                 | 795    |
| 2009                                 | 720    |

#### Infant Mortality

**John Mann:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the (a) neonatal, (b) infant and (c) child mortality rates (i) at Doncaster hospital, (ii) at Bassetlaw hospital, (iii) in the Yorkshire strategic health authority area, (iv) at Huddersfield hospital and (v) nationally were in each of the last five years. [39875]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) neonatal, (b) infant and (c) child mortality rates (i) at Doncaster Hospital, (ii) at Bassetlaw Hospital, (iii) in the Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority area, (iv) at Huddersfield Hospital and (v) nationally were in each of the last five years. [39875].

Table 1 attached provides the (a) neonatal, (b) infant and (c) child mortality rates for the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority and for England and Wales. Figures are for 2004-09, the most recent period for which figures are available.

Due to the sensitive nature of infant deaths and the risk of identifying individuals, ONS does not publish infant or child mortality figures by individual hospitals or groups of hospitals. Further it is not possible for ONS to calculate mortality rates for patients within individual hospitals or groups of hospitals, as there are no readily available data for the denominator populations.

Further information on infant and child mortality statistics is published on the Office for National Statistics website:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15309>

and

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15362>

*Table 1: Neonatal, infant and child mortality rates for Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority and for England and Wales, 2005-2009<sup>1</sup>*

|                                                                                     | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 <sup>2</sup> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|
| <i>(a) neonatal mortality rates per 1,000 live births<sup>2</sup></i>               |      |      |      |      |      |                   |
| England and Wales                                                                   | 3.5  | 3.4  | 3.5  | 3.3  | 3.2  | 3.1               |
| Yorkshire and the Humber SHA                                                        | 3.8  | 4.0  | 3.9  | 3.9  | 3.4  | 3.4               |
| <i>(b) infant mortality rates per 1,000 live births<sup>3</sup></i>                 |      |      |      |      |      |                   |
| England and Wales                                                                   | 5.0  | 5.0  | 5.0  | 4.7  | 4.6  | 4.5               |
| Yorkshire and the Humber SHA                                                        | 5.8  | 6.0  | 5.7  | 5.6  | 5.4  | 5.1               |
| <i>(c) child mortality rates per 100,000 population of the same age<sup>4</sup></i> |      |      |      |      |      |                   |
| England and Wales                                                                   | 14   | 14   | 14   | 14   | 12   | n/a               |
| Yorkshire and the Humber SHA                                                        | 15   | 17   | 15   | 16   | 14   | n/a               |

n/a = Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Rates for 2009 are provisional.

<sup>2</sup> Rates per 1,000 live births for deaths at age under 28 days.

<sup>3</sup> Rates per 1,000 live births for deaths under one year.

<sup>4</sup> Rates per 100,000 population for ages 1 to 14 years based on mid-year population estimates.

#### Life Expectancy: Females

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of women currently aged 56 are forecast to live to the age of (a) 65, (b) 70, (c) 80 and (d) 100. [41450]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of women aged 56 are forecast to live to the age of (a) 65, (b) 70, (c) 80 and (d) 100 (41450).

The Office for National Statistics publishes life tables for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries.

The table below gives the projected proportion for women aged 56 in 2010, resident in the United Kingdom, who will survive to ages 65, 70, 80 and 100 taking into account assumed future improvements in mortality.

| Age | Year attains age | Percentage |
|-----|------------------|------------|
| 65  | 2019             | 95         |
| 70  | 2024             | 92         |
| 80  | 2034             | 78         |
| 100 | 2054             | 13         |

#### Older Workers

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the labour market participation rate is for (a) women and (b) men aged (i) between 50 and 55 and (ii) between 56 and 60 years. [40177]

**Mr Hurd [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the labour market participation rate is for (a) women and (b) men aged (i) between 50 and 55 and (ii) between 56 and 60 years. (40177)

The labour market participation rate is measured using the Labour Force Survey and is the proportion of people who are economically active. The information requested is shown in the attached table. In accordance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, people are classed as economically active if they are either in employment or unemployed.

*Economic activity rate, by age group and sex, three months ending September 2010, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

|                                                      | Percentage |            |            |            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                                                      | Male       |            | Female     |            |
|                                                      | Aged 50-55 | Aged 56-60 | Aged 50-55 | Aged 56-60 |
| Percentage of population that is economically active | 87.2       | 76.6       | 78.2       | 63.1       |

Source:

Labour Force Survey.

#### Personal Income

**Mr Meacher:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the level of household personal disposable income (a) at current prices and (b) in real terms in each year since 1981; and what the percentage change was in those figures in each such year. [39952]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.



*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate he has made of the level of household personal disposable income (a) at current prices and (b) in real terms in each year since 1981; and what has been the percentage change in those figures in each such year. (39952)

Data are not available for all years since 1981. Available data are given in the tables below, with percentage changes given where we have two contiguous years of data. Estimates of median equivalised household disposable incomes are available in the

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. These data are at a household level.

Estimates of median equivalised household disposable incomes are available in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series, with figures for median household equivalised income in real 2008/09 prices from 1994/95 to 2008/09 published in Table 2. Its of the HBAI publication available at

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai\\_2009/index.php?page=contents](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai_2009/index.php?page=contents)

*Table 1: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income, Before Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008/09, in current prices of the year in question and 2008/09 real terms prices*

|                    |    | Median income (cash terms) (£) | Percentage change since previous year (cash terms) (%) | Median income (real terms) (£) | Percentage change since previous year (real terms) (%) |
|--------------------|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1981               | UK | 84                             | —                                                      | 253                            | —                                                      |
| 1987               | UK | 137                            | —                                                      | 291                            | —                                                      |
| 1988/89            | UK | 163                            | —                                                      | 312                            | —                                                      |
| 1990-91            | UK | 194                            | —                                                      | 319                            | —                                                      |
| 1991-92            | UK | 206                            | —                                                      | 321                            | —                                                      |
| 1992-93            | UK | 209                            | —                                                      | 322                            | —                                                      |
| 1993/94 to 1994/95 | UK | 226                            | —                                                      | 327                            | —                                                      |
| 1994/95            | GB | 232                            | —                                                      | 322                            | —                                                      |
| 1995/96            | GB | 239                            | 3                                                      | 322                            | 0                                                      |
| 1996/97            | GB | 258                            | 8                                                      | 336                            | 4                                                      |
| 1997/98            | GB | 266                            | 3                                                      | 342                            | 2                                                      |
| 1998/99            | GB | 274                            | 3                                                      | 348                            | 2                                                      |
| 1999/2000          | GB | 290                            | 6                                                      | 358                            | 3                                                      |
| 2000/01            | GB | 297                            | 3                                                      | 369                            | 3                                                      |
| 2001/02            | GB | 316                            | 6                                                      | 388                            | 5                                                      |
| 2002/03            | UK | 328                            | 4                                                      | 395                            | 2                                                      |
| 2003/04            | UK | 336                            | 2                                                      | 395                            | 0                                                      |
| 2004/05            | UK | 350                            | 4                                                      | 398                            | 1                                                      |
| 2005/06            | UK | 362                            | 4                                                      | 402                            | 1                                                      |
| 2006/07            | UK | 377                            | 4                                                      | 404                            | 0                                                      |
| 2007/08            | UK | 393                            | 4                                                      | 404                            | 0                                                      |
| 2008/09            | UK | 407                            | 4                                                      | 407                            | 1                                                      |

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

*Table 2: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income, After Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008/09, in current prices of the year in question and 2008/09 real terms prices*

|                    |    | Median income (cash terms) (£) | Percentage change since previous year (cash terms) (%) | Median income (real terms) (£) | Percentage change since previous year (real terms) (%) |
|--------------------|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1981               | UK | 76                             | —                                                      | 200                            | —                                                      |
| 1987               | UK | 119                            | —                                                      | 228                            | —                                                      |
| 1988/89            | UK | 140                            | —                                                      | 248                            | —                                                      |
| 1990-91            | UK | 161                            | —                                                      | 253                            | —                                                      |
| 1991-92            | UK | 174                            | —                                                      | 255                            | —                                                      |
| 1992-93            | UK | 179                            | —                                                      | 256                            | —                                                      |
| 1993/94 to 1994/95 | UK | 194                            | —                                                      | 261                            | —                                                      |
| 1994/95            | GB | 196                            | —                                                      | 254                            | —                                                      |
| 1995/96            | GB | 203                            | 3                                                      | 255                            | 0                                                      |
| 1996/97            | GB | 217                            | 7                                                      | 268                            | 5                                                      |
| 1997/98            | GB | 225                            | 4                                                      | 273                            | 2                                                      |
| 1998/99            | GB | 232                            | 3                                                      | 279                            | 2                                                      |
| 1999/2000          | GB | 245                            | 6                                                      | 291                            | 4                                                      |
| 2000/01            | GB | 254                            | 4                                                      | 302                            | 4                                                      |
| 2001/02            | GB | 273                            | 7                                                      | 319                            | 6                                                      |
| 2002/03            | UK | 286                            | 5                                                      | 330                            | 3                                                      |
| 2003/04            | UK | 293                            | 2                                                      | 333                            | 1                                                      |
| 2004/05            | UK | 300                            | 3                                                      | 337                            | 1                                                      |
| 2005/06            | UK | 310                            | 3                                                      | 342                            | 1                                                      |
| 2006/07            | UK | 321                            | 4                                                      | 344                            | 1                                                      |
| 2007/08            | UK | 332                            | 3                                                      | 346                            | 1                                                      |

Table 2: Values of median weekly equivalised disposable household income, After Housing Costs, 1981 to 2008/09, in current prices of the year in question and 2008/09 real terms prices

|         |    | Median income (cash terms) (£) | Percentage change since previous year (cash terms) (%) | Median income (real terms) (£) | Percentage change since previous year (real terms) (%) |
|---------|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2008/09 | UK | 343                            | 3                                                      | 343                            | -1                                                     |

**Notes:**

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income.
2. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
3. Data from 1994/95 is sourced from the Family Resources Survey, with earlier data sourced from the Family Expenditure Survey.
4. FES figures are for the United Kingdom, FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 2001/02, and for the United Kingdom from 2002/03. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. FES figures are two combined calendar years from 1990/91-1992/93 and two financial years combined for 1993/95.
5. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
6. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living, equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development equivalisation factors.
7. Median incomes have been provided rather than mean incomes because the income distribution is skewed with some outliers with high incomes.
8. Weekly incomes have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling, while percentage changes have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
9. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost and an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.

**Source:**

Households Below Average Income, DWP

### Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of active members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme earn (a) between £10,000 and £15,000, (b) between £15,000 and £20,000, (c) between £20,000 and £25,000, (d) between £25,000 and £30,000 and (e) £30,000 and more. [40375]

**Mr Maude:** As at 31 March 2010 the proportion of active members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme earning (a) between £10,000 and £15,000, (b) between £15,000 and £20,000, (c) between £20,000 and £25,000, (d) between £25,000 and £30,000 and (e) £30,000 and more are as follows:

| Earnings range  | Active membership (%) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| £10,000-£15,000 | 4                     |
| £15,000-£20,000 | 30                    |
| £20,000-£25,000 | 22                    |
| £25,000-£30,000 | 18                    |
| Over £30,000    | 26                    |

### PRIME MINISTER

#### Business: Community Development

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Prime Minister which companies have informed him of their intention to participate in the Every Business Commits initiative. [40959]

**Mr Davey:** I have been asked to reply.

Our immediate priority has been to set about removing obstacles to businesses delivering on the commitments set out in the Every Business Commits initiative. Alongside this work, we are proactively working directly with businesses, and umbrella organisations such as Business in the Community, to identify specific actions businesses can take. For example, Sainsbury's is committed to paying for a number of senior managers to work full-time within their communities as business connectors, helping businesses and the voluntary sector work closer together,

and bringing the knowledge, skills and expertise of the business community to good use locally. Fujitsu have committed to developing and running a new IT platform to support business connectors and link businesses to their local communities.

#### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Bury South, dated 24 January 2011; [38789]

(2) when he plans to answer question 38789, on correspondence with the hon. Member for Bury South, tabled on 2 February 2011 for named day answer on 7 February. [41080]

**The Prime Minister:** A reply has been sent.

### TREASURY

#### Banks: Pay

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will publish a list of each attendee at each meeting which has taken place as part of Project Merlin; [39317]

(2) how many meetings relating to Project Merlin have involved small businesses in (a) the South West, (b) the South East, (c) the West Midlands and (d) London. [39318]

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings relating to Project Merlin have involved small businesses in (a) the East Midlands, (b) the North West, (c) the North East, (d) Wales and (e) Scotland. [39320]

**Mr Hoban [holding answer 9 February 2011]:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what (a) (i) discussions and (ii) meetings his Department had with and (b) representations he received from the Scottish Government on Project Merlin prior to 9 February 2011. [41200]

**Mr Hoban:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

#### Child Care Tax Credit

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on work incentives of reductions in entitlement to the child care element of working tax credit. [41448]

**Mr Gauke:** The estimates of the impact of the reduction in entitlement to the child care element presented in the 'Spending Review 2010 policy costings' document consider only the first-order effects of the policy.

The Office for Budget Responsibility's "Economic and Fiscal Outlook" considered the wider indirect effects of welfare reforms made in the spending review. Full details are available at:

[http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ\\_fiscal\\_outlook\\_291110.pdf](http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf)

#### Departmental Conferences

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he has taken since his appointment to reduce expenditure on conferences from budgets within his responsibility; [28356]

(2) what his Department's annual budget for conferences was at (a) 7 May 2010 and (b) 7 December 2010. [30032]

**Justine Greening:** Conference spending, along with all other spending by the Department, is subject to rigorous scrutiny and regular review to ensure there is a necessary business need for the spending and that it represents good value for money.

The Treasury does not have a specific budget for conferences, but conference costs are included within HM Treasury's wider hospitality, catering and conferences budget. At 7 May 2010 this budget was £705,000 and at 7 December 2010 was £655,000. The full year forecast is now £477,000.

#### Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

**Dame Anne Begg:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to spending review 2010, page 69, what estimate his Department has made of the amount of public funds spent on meeting the mobility needs of those in receipt of disability living allowance who live in residential care excluding funding spent by the Department for Work and Pensions; and what the evidential basis is for this estimate. [41120]

**Justine Greening:** Mobility provision for people in residential care homes will be reviewed as part of wider reform of DLA.

The review of mobility provision will allow us to put in place proper support for care home residents that takes full account of their individual needs and puts clear duties in place to safeguard the most vulnerable.

#### Financial Services: Consumer Protection

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contribution he plans to make on consumer protection in financial services to the Financial Stability Board prior to the G20 Summit in November 2011. [41532]

**Mr Hoban:** The Financial Stability Board (FSB) is currently developing its consultation. The UK is seeking to take a full role in the consultation process to inform the FSB's thinking and is currently in discussions with the FSB to determine how we can most effectively contribute.

#### Financial Services: Pay

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he next expects to discuss with his European counterparts an agreement on transparency for executive pay in the financial services sector. [39307]

**Mr Hoban:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to secure agreement with other European countries on transparency of executive pay in the financial services sector. [39509]

**Mr Hoban [holding answer 10 February 2011]:** Remuneration disclosure has been discussed as part of the Government's dialogue with other jurisdictions and we continue to consider proposals to strengthen remuneration disclosure, including of executive pay in the financial services sector.

The Chancellor has called on counterparts in the European Union to consider urgently proposals to strengthen remuneration disclosure. While there is a range of views among the international community, there is consensus and support for an internationally consistent approach to remuneration disclosure.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's meetings on Project Merlin have involved small businesses in Northern Ireland. [39515]

**Mr Hoban [holding answer 10 February 2011]:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.



### Income Tax: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Northern Ireland there were in each income tax band in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [41031]

**Mr Gauke:** The requested information can be found on the HMRC website on page 3 of table 2-2 at the following address:

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income\\_tax/table2-2.pdf](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-2.pdf)

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 9 December 2010 in regard to Ms G Brownridge. [36052]

**Justine Greening:** I have replied to the right hon. Member.

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he expects to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 11 January 2011 sent to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, reference 7/22583/2011 and transferred to his Department, regarding a constituent; [39514]

(2) whether the hon. Member for Walsall North will receive a reply to his letter of 9 February 2011 concerning a constituent and dealing with domestic energy prices despite the circulation of a standard letter to hon. Members on fuel prices from the Economic Secretary to the Treasury. [41461]

**Justine Greening:** I wrote to all hon. Members on 9 February to set out the Government's overall position on fuel duty. I will reply separately to the hon. Member's correspondence concerning domestic energy prices.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of employees for whom employers pay no national insurance contributions in each (a) local authority, (b) parliamentary constituency and (c) region; and what estimate he has made of the effect on this number of the proposal to raise national insurance threshold for employers by £21 a week above indexation from April 2011; [39170]

(2) if he will estimate the number of businesses in each (a) local authority, (b) parliamentary constituency and (c) region which will be affected by the change in national insurance threshold for employers in April 2011; [39189]

(3) if he will estimate the effect on an average business in each (a) local authority, (b) Parliamentary constituency and (c) region of the change in national insurance threshold for employers in April 2011. [39190]

**Mr Gauke:** Estimates of the total number of employees earning below the secondary threshold for national insurance contributions in 2011-12 are not available through HMRC administrative data sources.

It is estimated that the number of employees for whom employers pay national insurance will decrease by 650,000 due to the increase in the secondary threshold by £21 above indexation in April 2011. Estimates for local authorities, parliamentary constituencies and regions are not available.

The estimate above is based on Annual Survey of Hours and earnings data for employees, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's autumn 2010 forecast.

Detailed estimates of numbers of businesses benefitting and average impacts per business are not available. However, all employers paying employer contributions gain up to £150 per employee as a result of the increase in the secondary threshold. Statistics published by Business Innovation and Skills show there are around 1.8 million businesses with employees in 2009, the majority of which are likely to benefit.

### Revenue and Customs: ICT

**Mike Freer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the capacity of commercial software suppliers to provide the necessary software for businesses to comply with the April 2011 implementation deadline set by HM Revenue and Customs for iXBRL filing. [41092]

**Mr Gauke:** Over 30 commercial suppliers whose iXBRL enabled software products have been successfully tested with HMRC are listed on HMRC's website. All have provided evidence that their software can produce documents compliant with the iXBRL requirements being brought in from 1 April 2011.

**Mike Freer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of (a) the likely effect on business costs of the implementation of iXBRL filing, (b) the likely effect of penalties imposed by HM Revenue and Customs on small businesses unable to comply with the iXBRL filing deadline and (c) the effect on receipts to the Exchequer of extending the iXBRL filing deadline beyond April 2011. [41093]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC published a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) in 2007. This provided an estimate of the one off costs for businesses from the increase of online filing generally. Now that a range of iXBRL-enabled software is available, HMRC will update this RIA.

There are no new penalties associated with the introduction of iXBRL. As currently, people may be penalised if they file returns late. But HMRC has confirmed that if a deadline is missed because of implementation issues with iXBRL software their well-established reasonable excuse provisions will apply. HMRC's guidance on transitional arrangements can be found at:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ct/mandatory-online-filing.pdf>

April 2011 is not a filing deadline. It is the implementation date for mandatory filing of Company Tax Returns using iXBRL. No assessment has been made of the effect on receipts of changing this date.

### Royal Bank of Scotland: Santander

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on competition of the sale of Royal Bank of Scotland branches to Santander. [40444]

**Mr Hoban [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** The Royal Bank of Scotland is required to execute the sale of a retail banking business with a 5% market share in the small and medium enterprise (SME) market as a condition of EU state aid approval for the aid they have received. The terms of this approval committed that the buyer of the divestment must, in combination with the divestment business, have a SME market share of no more than 14% in the UK. This condition on the maximum size of potential purchasers was set based on evidence from the UK competition authorities as to the size of banks that behave as challengers to the large incumbent banks. Santander UK currently have a small SME market share in the UK and in combination with the RBS divestment will have less than a 14% share of that market. As such, the sale will serve to increase competition in the UK banking sector as a whole, and especially in the SME market.

### Taxation

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the exemptions for woodland owners from (a) capital gains tax, (b) inheritance tax and (c) income tax. [34390]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave on 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 125W.

### Taxation: Aviation

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment has been made of the effects on the level of aviation taxation in the UK and (a) economic activity, (b) trade, (c) tourism and (d) growth; and if he will make a statement; [40928]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the level of aviation taxation and the UK's ability to increase its trade with (a) China and (b) India; [40929]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the level of aviation taxation and the UK's ability to attract more tourists from (a) China and (b) India. [40930]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter) on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 83W.

### UK Financial Investments

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a public interest test in respect of disposal of assets of companies in which UK Financial Investments Ltd holds a stake. [40446]

**Mr Hoban [holding answer 11 February 2011]:** UK Financial Investment's (UKFI) mandate is to develop and execute a strategy for disposing of the Government's investments in financial institutions in an orderly and active way, within the context of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer as shareholder and paying due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to acting in a way that promotes competition. UKFI is responsible for recommending sales to the Chancellor in line with its Framework Agreement and Investment Mandate.

UKFI's mandate was constructed to reflect the key factors that will drive the Government's decisions with respect to disposals of the publicly-owned banks. Good outcomes for the Exchequer, financial stability and competition are all clearly in the public interest.

### VAT: Supermarkets

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to extend the application of the basic rate of value added tax to hot food sold from delicatessen counters in supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [41460]

**Mr Gauke:** The rules concerning hot take-away food are the same for all businesses.

VAT is payable on a supply of hot food that has been heated for the purposes of enabling it to be consumed at a temperature above the ambient air temperature and it is above that temperature at the time it is provided to the customer. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and announces any changes as part of the budget process.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Repayments

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will fund proposals to allow tax credit claimants who have received erroneous payments due to administrative error to have payments backdated by more than three months; and if he will make a statement. [40958]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) code of practice 26 (COP-26) "What happens if we've paid you too much tax credit?" outlines the Department's approach to overpayments. The COP 26 is available on the HMRC website together with customer guidance about backdating tax credits entitlement at:

[www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/index.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/index.htm)

Regulation 7 of the Tax Credits (Claims and Notifications) Regulations 2002 provides for tax credits entitlement to be backdated up to a maximum of 93 days. Regulation 8 outlines the circumstances in which entitlement can be backdated for longer than 93 days for working tax credit claims including the disability element.

Regulation 3 of the Tax Credits (Official Error) Regulations 2003 provides for the revision of incorrect decisions, and gives a time limit of five years after the end of the tax year to which the decision relates, where a decision was a result of an Official Error.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Access to Work Programme: Sign Language

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications were (a) made and (b) approved under the Access to Work scheme for sign language interpreting services (i) in 2009-2010 and (ii) between January and November 2010. [40692]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Cumulative data about the numbers and types of people who are helped by Access to Work are published quarterly on the DWP website. The latest data, published in December 2010, covered the period from April to September 2010.

Of the 37,210 people who were helped by Access to Work between April 2009 and March 2010, 5,450 said that their primary need for support was because of a difficulty hearing.

Of the 29,040 people that Access to Work helped between April and September 2010, 4,580 said that their primary need for support was because of a difficulty hearing.

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to conduct its review of procedures and rules relating to share care cases; and what consideration will be given to cases in which the disparity in income between the non-resident parent and the parent who is caring for the child is substantial. [38754]

**Maria Miller:** The Government have recently published a consultation document "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" available at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf>

The Government want to encourage parents to reach family-based arrangements for child maintenance which will facilitate co-parenting and ongoing involvement of both parents in their children's lives. If parents can come to an agreement about shared care we would hope that they could also make a family-based arrangement suitable to both parties.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) is currently reviewing shared care as it makes plans to move to the new child maintenance system in 2012. The new child maintenance system seeks to deliver calculations which are simpler, quicker and more transparent. In keeping with the objective of simpler calculations, liabilities will continue to be based on the relevant income of the non-resident parent.

A disparity in income levels between the parent with care and non-resident parent does not alter parent's responsibility to support their child. This is a central principle of child support legislation and the majority of non-resident parents, including those on lower incomes or in receipt of benefits, are required to make some contribution to the support of their child.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent previous employment was of each senior staff member newly employed on a fixed-term contract in his Department since May 2010. [39565]

**Chris Grayling:** There have been no senior staff members newly employed on a fixed term contract in the Department since May 2010.

## Departmental Official Cars

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many ministerial cars his Department has used since May 2010. [39563]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government Car Service provides a safe and secure transport for Government Ministers and their official papers.

As per the arrangement under the previous Administration, the DWP had five ministerial cars allocated to Ministers in May 2010.

A review was launched and from 6 September, the number of vehicles was reduced to one allocated ministerial car for the Secretary of State. At the same time a ministerial car pool was introduced for other Ministers to use.

This revised operating model has reduced expenditure by 54%.

The Department is continuing to explore other options to provide this service and further reduce its cost.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr McFadden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on travel for officials since May 2010. [38528]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department is currently reviewing all expenditure with a view to driving out inefficiencies and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

In line with the Government's austerity agenda, the Department for Work and Pensions has taken vigorous action to enhance business travel policy. Overall this is projected to produce savings in the region of 40%, measured against last year's expenditure. The DWP's business travel policy actively discourages travel, unless the alternatives have been examined and exhausted and where travel is deemed appropriate, encourages the use of the most cost-effective modes of transport.

Measuring the expenditure since May 2010, against a comparable period last year illustrates that the expenditure on travel has fallen by '45%':

| Period (May to December each year) | Expenditure (£ million/percentage) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2010 (£ million)                   | 23.9                               |
| 2009 (£ million)                   | 43.6                               |
| Percentage reduction               | -45                                |

The total expenditure set out above needs to be seen in the context of a Department with over 100,000 staff based in over 900 locations throughout Great Britain.



The above expenditure also includes elements of the cost of provision of transport, to meet the Departments' obligations, under the Disability Discrimination Act.

It should be noted that in order for the DWP to provide the full scope of services, in line with its key objectives, a certain degree of business travel is required, for example, trainers will travel to multiple sites; fraud investigation staff will conduct surveillance exercises; Jobcentre Plus staff carry out outreach activity outside of the Government estate, all in the course of their duties.

#### Disability Living Allowance

**Jake Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Rossendale and Darwen constituency receiving disability living allowance (DLA) have had their DLA payments reassessed in the last 12 months; how many of these had their payments (a) reduced, (b) increased and (c) revoked; how many appealed their reassessment; and how many were successful in their appeal. [40439]

**Maria Miller:** We are not able to say how many residents of Rossendale and Darwen constituency receiving disability living allowance (DLA) have had their DLA payments reassessed in the last 12 months; how many of these had their payments (a) reduced, (b) increased and (c) revoked; how many appealed their reassessment; and how many were successful in their appeal. This is because our management information system for DLA does not enable us to provide details at that level.

**Mr Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the proportion of the mobility element of disability living allowance that is spent by recipients on (a) critical and (b) social needs. [41308]

**Maria Miller:** DLA provides a cash contribution towards the extra costs arising from disability and uses mobility and care needs as proxies for those extra costs. The benefit is unconditional and recipients are free to use it according to their own priorities.

A recent report conducted by the university of York for the Department "The impact of Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance: Findings from exploratory qualitative research"—Research Report No. 649—available at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep649.pdf>

suggests that disability living allowance recipients spend the benefit on a wide range of mobility support to meet their needs. This includes: transport, such as taxis; purchasing particular types of mobility aids; electric scooters; customised wheelchairs; paying for adaptations around the home to prevent falls; and accessing vehicles through the Motability scheme.

#### Disability Living Allowance: AIDS

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the length of time for which persons diagnosed with AIDS prior to 1999 will be eligible for disability living allowance. [40987]

**Maria Miller:** No time limit is made for the receipt of disability living allowance with regard to any particular diagnosis. Awards of disability living allowance, whether made for an indefinite period or a fixed period, are made on the basis that the conditions of entitlement upon which that award was made are met, and continue to be met.

#### Health and Safety Executive

**Mr Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Health and Safety Executive to bring forward proposals for the next steps in its development as a more commercial entity competing where relevant in an open market. [40505]

**Chris Grayling:** The Minister for Employment has asked the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to develop and progressively implement ways of reducing the funding that the Government provides over the course of the next four financial years. A wide range of potential options will be examined and until the work is further advanced it is not possible set a firm timetable.

#### Housing Benefit

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition he uses for under-occupancy of social rented accommodation for the purposes of restricting housing benefit. [40575]

**Steve Webb:** The detail of this measure is still being considered but we anticipate that we shall use the same size criteria as currently used for assessing housing benefit in the private sector under the local housing allowance. That is, one bedroom for each of the following:

- a couple
- a person who is not a child (age 16 and over)
- two children of the same sex
- two children who are under 10
- any other child.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the two-year review of the local housing allowance. [40576]

**Steve Webb:** The Two Year Review of the Local Housing Allowance was published on Thursday 10 February 2011. The report can be found at the following link:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local%2Dauthority%2Dstaff/housing%2Dbenefit/claims%2Dprocessing/local%2Dhousing%2Dallowance/evaluation/>

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the liability of local authorities for penalties for early termination of contracts for outsourced housing benefit administration when housing support is centralised following implementation of his proposals for universal credit. [40889]

**Steve Webb:** The Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of Universal Credit. We have not yet finalised the detail and therefore

the impact on organisations currently delivering benefits that universal credit will replace. We will work closely with local authorities to understand and manage the impacts so that we can transition customers smoothly to any new arrangements.

### Housing Benefit: Pregnant Women

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at what point single pregnant women become entitled to the single room rate of housing benefit rather than the shared room rate; and if he will make a statement. [41544]

**Steve Webb:** Pregnant single women under 25 are entitled to the shared accommodation rate until they give birth, at which point they become entitled to the two bedroom rate of local housing allowance. If a woman in these circumstances chooses to move into larger accommodation before the birth of her child she will need to meet the rent shortfall from other income or she could apply to her local authority to be considered for a discretionary housing payment.

### Incapacity Benefit: Dartford

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Dartford constituency successfully claimed incapacity benefit due to heart disease in each of the last five years. [41146]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is as follows:

*Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants in Dartford constituency*

| As at May each year | Total | Claiming on the basis of heart disease |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>IB/SDA</b>       |       |                                        |
| 2006                | 2,970 | 90                                     |
| 2007                | 2,960 | 80                                     |
| 2008                | 3,020 | 90                                     |
| 2009                | 2,720 | 70                                     |
| 2010                | 2,340 | 60                                     |
| <b>ESA</b>          |       |                                        |
| 2010                | 670   | 20                                     |

#### Notes:

1. Data are rounded to nearest 10.
2. To qualify for incapacity benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment. Under the employment and support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the basis of "heart disease" would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the personal/work capability assessment. 3. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
4. Constituencies used for May 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of 2010. Prior to this, the constituencies used are for May 2005.
5. Data by medical condition for ESA are only available from 2010.

#### Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

### Industrial Health and Safety

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Health and Safety Executive has launched the simplified interactive risk assessment form for (a) offices, (b) classrooms and (c) shops recommended in Lord Young's report, Common Sense, Common Safety. [41203]

**Chris Grayling:** The Health and Safety Executive launched a tool for low-risk office-based environments on 15 October 2010. A classroom tool was launched for consultation on 22 November 2010. In addition, tools for low risk shops and charity shops were launched for consultation on 15 and 23 December respectively.

### Jobcentre Plus: Kilmarnock

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he next plans to visit the Jobcentre that serves Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency; and if he will make a statement. [41058]

**Chris Grayling:** Since May 2010, the Department's ministerial team has visited numerous constituencies and Jobcentres across the UK.

The Department's ministerial team currently have no plans to visit the Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency, however, should any Ministers do so, they will look to visit the Jobcentre there.

### Pensioners: Personal Savings

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of (a) women and (b) men aged 56 who have pension savings of (i) less than £2,000, (ii) less than £4,000 (iii) less than £6,000 and (iv) less than £8,000. [41451]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is as follows:

(a) Proportion of women who have private pension wealth of (i) less than £2,000, (ii) less than £4,000, (iii) less than £6,000 and (iv) less than £8,000 aged 56 in 2006-08

| Amount of private pension wealth | Proportion of women aged 56 (%) <sup>1</sup> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Less than:                       |                                              |
| £2,000                           | 42                                           |
| £4,000                           | 44                                           |
| £6,000                           | 47                                           |
| £8,000                           | 49                                           |

(b) Proportion of men who have private pension wealth of (i) less than £2,000, (ii) less than £4,000, (iii) less than £6,000 and (iv) less than £8,000 aged 56 in 2006-08

| Amount of private pension wealth | Proportion of men aged 56 (%) <sup>1</sup> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Less than:                       |                                            |
| £2,000                           | 25                                         |
| £4,000                           | 27                                         |
| £6,000                           | 28                                         |

(b) Proportion of men who have private pension wealth of (i) less than £2,000, (ii) less than £4,000, (iii) less than £6,000 and (iv) less than £8,000 aged 56 in 2006-08

| Amount of private pension wealth | Proportion of men aged 56 (%) <sup>1</sup> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| £8,000                           | 30                                         |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those with zero pension wealth.

**Notes:**

1. We interpreted the question to mean wealth held in private pensions. Private pensions are all pensions that are not state basic retirement or state earnings related. There are nine categories included in the estimates of private pension wealth: defined benefit (DB) pensions; defined contribution (DC) pensions and personal pensions to which the individual was contributing at the time of survey, additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) made to current pensions, retained rights in DB and DC schemes, pension funds from which the individual was drawing an income through income drawdown, pensions in payment and pensions expected in the future based on the contributions of a former spouse. The estimates quoted include those individuals with zero pension wealth. The private pension wealth figures provided here were not immediately available from the Wealth and Assets Survey report, and were obtained by carrying out in-house analysis of the data.

2. The Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) is a large scale nationally representative longitudinal survey of over 30,000 private households in Great Britain that provides comprehensive information on people's assets and net wealth. The first wave was conducted from July 2006 to June 2008. It collected detailed information on financial and non-financial assets, and wealth components such as savings, pensions, property, mortgages and debt as well as people's attitudes and savings behaviour over time.

3. Extensive analysis of pension wealth using the Wealth and Assets data is available in "Wealth in Great Britain 2006-08" at the following web link:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth\\_in\\_GB\\_2006\\_2008.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth_in_GB_2006_2008.pdf)

Source:

Wealth and Assets Survey 2006-08

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of average monetary value of pension savings of (a) men and (b) women aged (i) 30, (ii) 40 and (iii) 50. [41452]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is as follows:

(a) Estimates of pension wealth held by men aged (i) 30, (ii) 40 and (iii) 50 in private pensions in 2006/08 are as follows:

| Aged | Median <sup>1</sup> | Mean <sup>1</sup> |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 30   | 0                   | 20,538            |
| 40   | 12,375              | 79,117            |
| 50   | 54,752              | 158,496           |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those with zero pension wealth.

Source:

Wealth and Assets Survey 2006-08

(b) Estimates of pension wealth held by women aged (i) 30, (ii) 40 and (iii) 50 in private pensions in 2006/08 are as follows:

| Aged | Median <sup>1</sup> | Mean <sup>1</sup> |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 30   | 0                   | 15,849            |
| 40   | 5,287               | 44,577            |

| Aged | Median <sup>1</sup> | Mean <sup>1</sup> |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 50   | 11,390              | 87,184            |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those with zero pension wealth.

**Notes:**

1. We interpreted the question to mean wealth held in private pensions. Private pensions are all pensions that are not state basic retirement or state earnings related. There are nine categories included in the estimates of private pension wealth: defined benefit (DB) pensions, defined contribution (DC) pensions and personal pensions to which the individual was contributing at the time of survey, additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) made to current pensions, retained rights in DB and DC schemes, pension funds from which the individual was drawing an income through income drawdown, pensions in payment and pensions expected in the future based on the contributions of a former spouse. The estimates quoted include those individuals with zero pension wealth. The private pension wealth figures provided here were not immediately available from the Wealth and Assets Survey report, and were obtained by carrying out in-house analysis of the data.

2. We provide figures for both mean and median private pension wealth. The median may provide a better measure compared to the mean since the distribution of private pension wealth can be skewed by a small number of very large amounts of wealth at the top of the distribution.

3. The Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) is a large scale nationally representative longitudinal survey of over 30,000 private households in Great Britain that provides comprehensive information on people's assets and net wealth. The first wave was conducted from July 2006 to June 2008. It collected detailed information on financial and non-financial assets, and wealth components such as savings, pensions, property, mortgages and debt as well as people's attitudes and savings behaviour over time.

4. Extensive analysis of pension wealth using the Wealth and Assets data is available in "Wealth in Great Britain 2006/08" at the following web link:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth\\_in\\_GB\\_2006\\_2008.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth_in_GB_2006_2008.pdf)

Source:

Wealth and Assets Survey 2006/08

## Public Expenditure

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Barnett consequential funding his Department has provided to each of the devolved Administrations in (a) 2010-11 to date and (b) each of the last three years; and with which programmes such funding was associated. [39378]

**Chris Grayling:** In the 2010 spending review changes in the DEL budgets of the devolved Administrations were determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way. The settlements for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 were published in table 2.22 of the 2010 spending review document (Cm 7942).

Barnett consequentials relating to each of the devolved Administrations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are published as part of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses Supplementary Material on the Treasury's website under the heading "House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett Formula":

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pepub\\_pesa10.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pepub_pesa10.htm)

Updated tables taking account of adjustments since the publication of the 2010 edition of PESA will be published alongside the next edition of PESA later this year.

Information on the block grants paid by the territorial offices to the devolved Administrations is published alongside the Main and Supplementary Estimates.



### Remploy

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 461W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow East (Margaret Curran), on Remploy, when he expects the independent review of the support the Government provided to disabled people who want to work to be completed. [41256]

**Maria Miller:** The call for evidence closes on 28 February and we expect the Sayce Review to be published in the summer 2011.

### Remploy: Manpower

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reasons for the change in the number of managers in Remploy since 2008. [41587]

**Maria Miller:** It is a matter for Remploy to decide on the appropriate level (and grade) of staffing for the company.

The increase in managers in the Employment Services is due to expansion that has seen the number of disabled people supported into work increase from 6,500 in 2007-08 to 10,600 in 2009-2010.

The change in the number of managers in the Enterprise Business is as a result of the introduction of the modernisation plan and restructuring of the business.

### Remploy: Trade Unions

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that the management of Remploy consult and negotiate on their plans for the future of the organisation with the recognised trade unions in line with the national agreement. [41642]

**Maria Miller:** Consultation on the voluntary redundancy scheme is a management matter for Remploy. Remploy has assured my officials that it is committed to honouring its legal obligations for the consultation process and I have encouraged the company and the trade unions to continue discussions to provide the best outcome for disabled people.

### Social Security Benefits

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how employment will be defined for the purposes of determining which household will be subject to the proposed total cap on benefit entitlement for workless households. [40577]

**Steve Webb:** We are introducing the benefit cap to promote fairness between those in and out of work and to increase incentives for people to move into work or increase their hours of employment. In support of these objectives, households which contain a member who is in receipt of working tax credit will be exempt from the cap. We are still considering the precise criteria for an equivalent exemption under universal credit.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households which will be subject to the cap on benefit entitlement where social rents are set at 80% of market rents. [40579]

**Steve Webb:** Work between the DWP and the Department for Communities and Local Government is ongoing on the impact on housing benefit of the proposals for affordable rent for social housing. Further details will be made available in due course, so no estimate has been made of the number of households which will be subject to the cap on benefit entitlements where social rents are set at 80% of market rate.

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the working age population of each constituency in the UK were in receipt of (a) jobseeker's allowance, (b) unemployment allowance, (c) carer's allowance, (d) disability living allowance, (e) widow's or bereavement benefit and (f) other income support in December 2010. [41056]

**Chris Grayling:** A table of the numbers and proportions of the working age population of each constituency in receipt of jobseeker's allowance at December 2010 has been placed in the Library.

Information for the other benefits requested at December 2010 is not available. Benefit statistics are normally published five and a half months in arrears.

In some circumstances, claims for benefit can be backdated or there can be a lag between a claim being made and all of the necessary evidence being provided to assess if it is successful. In order to capture the vast majority of such claims, the DWP waits for four months after the extract date before beginning the publication process. This provides an acceptable trade-off between quality and timeliness. The level of retrospection is different for housing benefit, council tax benefit and the employment programmes, and for the monthly jobseeker's allowance (claimant count) figures published by the Office for National Statistics. However, the same principle is applied. The published numbers capture the vast majority of these retrospective entries to the computer systems.

The production of the statistical databases and tables takes about six weeks. Hence the quarterly Statistical Summary is published around five and a half months after the main reference date.

The schedule of planned statistical publications by the DWP over the next 12 months is published on the Department's website at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=schedule>

Benefit statistics for August 2010 will be available on 16 March 2011 and statistics for November 2010 on 18 May 2011.

The DWP has introduced a series of experimental early estimates for claimants of "inactive" benefits. These are released just six weeks after the count date. Over the past year, revisions to these figures have been 1% or less. This methodology was developed for national totals, and no breakdowns are available.

### Social Security Benefits: Hearing Impairment

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those in receipt of each welfare benefit are deaf. [40691]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is not available. Information on whether a claimant is deaf is not routinely recorded for all claimants.

However, information is available on whether the main medical condition for incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants is "Other Hearing Loss", which includes deafness, and whether the main disabling condition for attendance allowance and disability living allowance claimants is deafness.

The information that is available is presented in the following tables.

Table 1: Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants—May 2010

|                      | ESA     | IB/SDA    |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| All                  | 527,120 | 2,126,690 |
| "Other Hearing Loss" | 810     | 5,810     |

**Notes:**

- Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
- For IB/SDA and ESA deafness is included under the disabling condition of "Other Hearing Loss".
- To qualify for incapacity benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a capability assessment. Under the employment and support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the basis of "other hearing loss" would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the personal/work capability assessment.
- Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.

**Source:**

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Table 2: Attendance allowance (AA) cases in payment—May 2010

|          | Number    |
|----------|-----------|
| All      | 1,614,270 |
| Deafness | 8,140     |

**Notes:**

- Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
- A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to AA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability.

**Source:**

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Table 3: Disability living allowance (DLA) cases in payment—May 2010

|     | Number    |
|-----|-----------|
| All | 3,157,300 |

Table 3: Disability living allowance (DLA) cases in payment—May 2010

|          | Number |
|----------|--------|
| Deafness | 41,500 |

**Notes:**

- DLA figures are from 5% sample data uprated to 100% proportions. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
- Caution: The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provides some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total by the application of a single rating factor therefore subtotals based on uprated 5% data may differ from 100% data because of sampling variation in the 5% sample.
- Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
- A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability.

**Source:**

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

### Social Security Benefits: Kirkcaldy

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 84-6W, how many and what proportion of the working age population of Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency were in receipt of (a) jobseeker's allowance, (b) unemployment allowance, (c) carer's allowance, (d) disability living allowance, (e) widow's or bereavement benefit and (f) other income support in December 2010. [41055]

**Chris Grayling:** In December 2010, 3,303 residents of Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency (5.4% of the working age population) were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance<sup>1</sup>.

Information for the other benefits requested at December 2010 is not available. Benefit statistics are normally published five and a half months in arrears.

In some circumstances, claims for benefit can be backdated or there can be a lag between a claim being made and all of the necessary evidence being provided to assess if it is successful. In order to capture the vast majority of such claims, The DWP waits for four months after the extract date before beginning the publication process. This provides an acceptable trade-off between quality and timeliness. The level of retrospection is different for housing benefit, council tax benefit and the employment programmes, and for the monthly jobseeker's allowance (claimant count) figures published by the Office for National Statistics. However, the same principle is applied. The published numbers capture the vast majority of these retrospective entries to the computer systems.

The production of the statistical databases and tables takes about six weeks. Hence the quarterly Statistical Summary is published around five and a half months after the main reference date.

The schedule of planned statistical publications by the DWP over the next 12 months is published on the Department's website at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=schedule>

Benefit statistics for August 2010 will be available on 16 March 2011 and statistics for November 2010 on 18 May 2011.

The DWP has introduced a series of experimental early estimates for claimants of "inactive" benefits. These are released just six weeks after the count date. Over the past year, revisions to these figures have been 1% or less. This methodology was developed for national totals, and no breakdowns are available.

<sup>1</sup> Source:

Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases)

### State Retirement Pensions: Females

**Dame Anne Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of women who are carers who will

be affected by the revised timetable for increasing state pension age to (a) 65 by 2018 and (b) 66 by 2020. [41189]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is not available.

Such information as is available is in the Labour Force Survey of the fourth quarter of 2010 which indicates that nearly three-quarters of the women affected by the change in the state pension age timetable are currently in employment. It also indicates that 7% of women are not seeking employment due to looking after family or home, which will include those with caring responsibilities.

### Unemployment and Early Retirement: Females

**Dame Anne Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of women who will (a) become unemployed and (b) take early retirement before reaching the state pension age in each year from 2015 to 2020. [41122]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is not available. Such information as is available is in the table.

| Current female labour market status |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|
|                                     | 50   | 51   | 52   | 53   | 54   | 55   | 56   | 57   | 58   | 59         |
| Employed                            | 77.7 | 76.2 | 76.2 | 73.3 | 73.3 | 74.6 | 66.8 | 64.6 | 66.0 | 57.0       |
| Unemployed                          | 2.9  | 2.7  | 3.0  | 3.6  | 2.3  | 2.1  | 2.6  | 3.2  | 1.9  | 2.7        |
| <i>Inactive</i>                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |            |
| Sick or disabled                    | 9.4  | 10.9 | 9.5  | 12.2 | 11.6 | 10.5 | 12.9 | 12.4 | 12.6 | 16.9       |
| Family or home                      | 6.9  | 6.7  | 5.4  | 7.3  | 6.8  | 6.0  | 8.0  | 9.2  | 6.4  | 6.0        |
| Retired                             | 0.0  | 0.9  | 1.1  | 0.7  | 2.1  | 2.3  | 4.7  | 6.4  | 7.7  | 11.6       |
| Other                               | 3.1  | 2.7  | 4.9  | 2.8  | 3.9  | 4.5  | 4.9  | 4.1  | 5.4  | 5.8        |
| Total inactive                      | 19.4 | 21.1 | 20.8 | 23.0 | 24.4 | 23.2 | 30.7 | 32.1 | 32.0 | 40.3       |

Notes:

1. Date taken from Quarter 4 2010 Labour Force Survey.

2. The figures in this table are based on a small sample and so should be treated with caution when considering small differences between years or groups.

### Work Capability Assessment

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the additional 6,800 work capability assessment claims started between October 2008 and May 2009 are included in the figures published in October 2010 but were not included in the figures published in January 2010. [41132]

**Chris Grayling:** Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. A key factor in determining eligibility for ESA is the work capability assessment (WCA). The WCA is carried out by health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare. A report of the WCA is then sent to Jobcentre Plus. Jobcentre Plus Decision Makers (JCP DMs) have to consider all the available information before making a decision on benefit entitlement.

Figures on the assessment result for the first three WCA publications in October 2009, January 2010 and April 2010, were based on the Atos recommendation. At that time this was the only information the Department

held centrally on the result of the WCA and we excluded assessments where the result was unknown. From July 2010, information on the JCP DM's decision became available. As this variable reflects the final decision rather than the Atos recommendation the publication was amended to use this variable. One effect of this change was to increase the number of known results which was reflected in the figures.

The change was fully explained in the July 2010 publication. The relevant section is reproduced here:

#### *Annex B: Technical Note*

#### *Changes to calculation methodology since April 2010 publication*

In this publication assessment outcomes are based on the DWP decision, rather than the ATOS recommendation, as used in previous publications. The DWP decision is made by the Decision Maker in Jobcentre Plus, taking into account the recommendation provided by the ATOS healthcare professional and the evidence provided by the applicant. Data on the final DWP decision has only recently become available centrally. The change has been made to provide more accurate figures on the WCA, as it is the Decision Maker's decision that determines whether ESA will be awarded. Using this variable also means we



can include more complete information on people clerically assessed by ATOS as the result of assessment is recorded by the Decision Maker.

By comparing the results calculated using the DWP decision variable—described above, with those calculated using the ATOS recommendation variable—as used in previous publications, we see the following small changes in the headline WCA outcomes:

Support Group figure changes from 5% to 6%

Work Related Activity Group figure changes from 13% to 14%

Fit for Work figure changes from 40% to 39%

Claim closed before assessment complete—no change

Assessment still in progress—no change.

The full list of WCA publications can be found at:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa\\_wca/index.php?page=esa\\_wca\\_arc](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc)

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation: Working Hours

**Sir Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the European Aviation Safety Agency's publication OPS 1, Subpart Q, on flight time limitations for air pilots, (1) what recommendations of the Moebus study were (a) included and (b) not included in Subpart Q; [38896]

(2) what definitions are employed of (a) the seasonal period and (b) designated reporting point. [38898]

**Mrs Villiers:** The current flight time limitation requirements in OPS 1 (Annex III to Council Regulation 3922/91) will be replaced by European Aviation Safety Agency implementing rules in 2012. EASA has issued a Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA) consulting on their proposed implementing rules. The NPA contains details of how the Moebus report was taken into account in the production of the draft guidelines. The NPA also contains the definitions used. The NPA can be downloaded from the EASA website at:

<http://easa.europa.eu/rulemaking/notices-of-proposed-amendment-NPA.php>

The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals and we will seek to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines.

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on pilot fatigue in the last 10 years. [39681]

**Mrs Villiers:** In the last 10 years the Civil Aviation Authority has commissioned and evaluated:

A study to investigate the fatigue implications of 12 hour shift patterns operated by police helicopter crews;

A study into in-flight napping strategies; and

Continuing studies into sleep patterns which have led to revisions of CAP 371, "The Avoidance of Fatigue in Aircrews" and the development of the System for Aircrew Fatigue Evaluation (SAFE) computer model. SAFE is used by the CAA to evaluate Flight Time Limitation scheme submissions by operators.

In addition, the CAA reviews research reports published by other organisations.

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on safety of replacing the Civil Aviation Authority's current CAP 371 flight time limitations with the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals for such limitations; [39684]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of implementing the European Aviation Safety Agency's Notice of Proposed Amendment to flight time limitations. [39685]

**Mrs Villiers:** The European Aviation Safety Agency published draft legislation for consultation on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 20 March. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals. It will respond to the consultation once it has completed its review. Our aim is to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines.

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors he will use in determining whether changes to pilots' flight time limitations being proposed by the European Aviation Safety Agency provide an appropriate level of safety. [40852]

**Mrs Villiers:** The objective of flight time limitations is to ensure that crew members are adequately rested at the beginning of each flying duty period so that they can perform at a satisfactory level of efficiency and safety in all normal and abnormal circumstances arising during flying.

The Civil Aviation Authority will review the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to determine whether they meet that objective.

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on safety of the European Aviation Safety Agency's Notice of Proposed Amendment for flight time limitations. [40857]

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effect on airline safety of the European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendment for flight time limitations; [40965]

(2) what assessment he has made of the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals on changes to flight time limitations for pilots. [41006]

**Mrs Villiers:** I refer the hon. Members to my answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 51W, given to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham).

### Bus Services: Finance

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has undertaken an equality impact assessment on the effect on bus services to changes to (a) the Bus Service Operators Grant, (b) concessionary fares and (c) funding settlements for local authorities. [39165]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has published its equality impact assessments for changes to the Bus Service Operators Grant and the local authority finance simplification on its website at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/eqias/>

The Department for Transport undertook an equality impact assessment screening for the changes to the concessionary travel reimbursement arrangements. Since this indicated no inequalities impact from the changes, a full equality impact assessment was not required.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effects of reductions in public expenditure on the level of bus services available. [39287]

**Norman Baker:** The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on matters of common interest.

#### Departmental NDPBs

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets have been set for the work of the Highways Agency. [39337]

**Mike Penning:** The Highways Agency's business plan for the 2010-11 financial year was published on 25 March 2010. Copies were placed in the Libraries of both Houses at the time of publication, and can also be found on the agency's website at

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/aboutus/26993.aspx>

The Highways Agency's business plan for 2011-12 will contain measures that will allow the public to judge how well the Highways Agency is managing the strategic road network, but will not set targets as this Government have ended the reliance on top-down performance management to determine the effectiveness of public services.

#### Galileo System: Finance

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the UK of the EU Galileo project. [38357]

**Mrs Villiers** [holding answer 8 February 2011]: In 2007, member states and the Commission agreed a budget of €3.4 billion of EU funds to complete the programme. As a rough indication the UK's pre-abatement contribution to the 2010 EU budget is currently estimated at 14%.

Galileo's development stage took place before 2007 and was funded by member state contributions to the European Space Agency (ESA). The UK's contribution was €240.3 million.

The Commission has recently published a mid-term review of the Galileo programme. The review states that the Commission cannot complete the system within the €3.4 billion budget. The Commission now estimates that if the system were to be completed, an additional €1.9 billion would have to be made available for this purpose in the next financial perspective.

The mid-term review is not a formal legal proposal for this funding.

The UK believes that rather than increasing the budget, the Commission should look at ways of reducing the scope of the programme to a level that can be achieved within the current budget.

We are urging the Commission to do this since we believe a system with reduced scope could still provide useful benefits to a wide range of users in the UK.

#### Highways Agency

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that all major schemes being undertaken by the Highways Agency are the subject of an up-to-date business case. [39364]

**Mike Penning** [holding answer 9 February 2011]: Appraisal is an ongoing process, and decisions in the 2010 spending review used the most up-to-date information available. An explanation of the analytical methods used at the spending review can be found on the Department's website, with further supporting information on the Highways Agency website.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/strategic/highwaystransportschemesdata>  
[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

#### HM Coastguard: Costs

**Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse is of (a) each regional director in HM Coastguard posts and (b) the support teams for each such director. [40155]

**Mike Penning:** The current direct costs of employment for the three Maritime and Coastguard Agency regional directors and the cost of the support provided to them, is £253,344.

These three regional directors and their support teams discharge a wide range of duties and responsibilities. Among other things these duties include responsibility for HM Coastguard operational delivery. The proportion of HM Coastguard related activities will vary depending on the number of issues that arise and require their personal attention. For practical purposes we would estimate this to lie somewhere in the range of 10% to 20%.

The cost of this coastguard-related work is estimated at between £39,000 per annum and £62,000 per annum.

#### Lorry Drivers: Sleep Apnoea

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the proportion of drivers of large goods vehicles of each age group who suffer from obstructive sleep apnoea. [41968]

**Mike Penning:** The information requested is not held.

#### Railways: Construction

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure that residents in areas north of Birmingham potentially affected by high speed rail have the opportunity to participate in his Department's consultation on the principle of high speed rail. [41586]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** As set out in the Department for Transport's Business Plan, the Government propose to consult on their strategy for high speed rail and on their proposed route for an initial line from London to the West Midlands between February and July 2011. All residents of the UK will have the opportunity to offer

their views on the proposals either online, or by requesting paper or electronic versions of the documents via the consultation website or by telephone.

Paper versions of all the consultation documents will also be available at central libraries or at local council offices along the proposed London to West Midlands route.

### Railways: Franchising

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he will have powers to prevent train operating companies from changing local rail services under new franchises. [35950]

**Mrs Villiers:** Rail franchise agreements will require operators to provide the contracted level of service. These will be rigorously enforced. Operators will be able to make changes to the timing of train services and may—on a case by case basis—be given greater freedom than now to change frequencies or other elements of the service.

### Railways: Industrial Disputes

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 539W, on railways: industrial disputes, and with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Islington North of 15 May 2003, *Official Report*, column 340W, on rail strikes, when it became his Department's policy to withhold information on payments made to individual train operating companies; how much was paid in compensation to train operating companies in each year since 2005-06; and when the last such payment was made. [39530]

**Mrs Villiers [holding answer 14 February 2011]:** There is no general policy to withhold information on payments made to individual train operating companies (TOCs), but the Department for Transport has always exercised its right to withhold, on a case-by-case basis, information on any payment it considers commercially sensitive.

Since 2005-06, compensation payments have only been made in one year (2006) and that was the last payment made to date.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many wheelchair users were (a) killed and (b) injured in accidents when travelling in a taxi or minibus in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [41491]

**Norman Baker:** I regret that the information collected on death and injuries to the occupants of taxis and minibuses does not contain any information on the disability status of casualties.

### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of local authorities which have levels of salt in store at or below the recommended minimum; [33118]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure replenishment of road salt stocks; what steps he plans to take to ensure the adequacy of stocks to meet a future severe winter; and if he will make a statement. [33119]

**Norman Baker:** In aggregate, highway authorities started the winter period with significantly higher salt stocks than last year. The recommendations of the winter resilience review related to the level of local authority pre-winter stocks; there is no recommended "running minimum" levels in-winter. It is the responsibility of each highway authority to make appropriate arrangements to ensure its winter resilience levels. The Government arranged for the Highways Agency to import 250,000 tonnes of salt as a strategic national reserve in accordance with the recommendations of the winter resilience review, to be available through the 2010-11 winter season.

The unusually early onset of prolonged severe winter weather inevitably led to salt stocks being utilised at a faster rate in November and December than normal. The Department for Transport has been regularly monitoring stocks held by local authorities and has taken necessary action including releasing some of the national strategic stockpile to English local authorities with low resilience, making arrangements for the import of a further volume of salt of around 273,500 tonnes as a precautionary measure and, following an urgent audit by David Quarumby, providing new guidance to highway authorities on salt spread rates.

These steps have ensured that the country is in a better and more resilient position than last winter. At the end of January 2011 and taking results from the most recent complete survey, total salt stocks held in Great Britain, including strategic stockpiles was 971,494 tonnes, compared with around 270,493 tonnes on 1 February 2010.

However, we are not complacent and it is important that local highway authorities take action to implement the recommendations of David Quarumby's report of October 2010 and the more recent audit in December 2010 to ensure that they are better prepared for future winters. The Department for Transport will continue to maintain a strategic stockpile where conditions warrant it, as recommended by the report, for future winters.

### Rolling Stock: Procurement

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the planned additional train carriages to increase capacity on the rail network will be distributed among franchised operators. [38993]

**Mrs Villiers:** A total of 647 additional carriages have been contracted with franchised train operators, the distribution of which is shown in the following table:

| TOC                   | Number |
|-----------------------|--------|
| One (NXEA)            | 188    |
| First Capital Connect | 153    |
| East Midlands Trains  | 8      |
| London Midland        | 28     |
| Intercity West Coast  | 106    |
| Chiltern              | 8      |
| First Great Western   | 30     |



| TOC           | Number |
|---------------|--------|
| South Central | 60     |
| South Eastern | 48     |
| Northern      | 18     |
| England—Total | 647    |

The Department for Transport has re-started discussions with four train operating companies (First Great Western, London Midland, South West Trains and Northern) about plans to provide additional carriages. The companies are currently developing updated proposals for consideration by the Department, and until these have been evaluated and been subject to commercial negotiations, it is not possible to be certain as to which rolling stock will eventually be used by each operator. We expect to make announcements on this matter later this year.

Additionally, the Secretary of State confirmed on 25 November 2010 that the Thameslink project will go ahead in full and that a new fleet of around 1,200 additional carriages will be introduced on services across London by 2018. A further 650 carriages will also be provided for Crossrail services by 2019.

#### Roads: Snow and Ice

**Mr George Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of procurement of the strategic stockpile of rock salt; what the volume of rock salt so procured was; what costs have been incurred in storing that stockpile; which companies were (a) shortlisted and (b) chosen to supply the strategic stockpile of rock salt; and what estimate he has made of the difference between the costs of that procurement and the costs of procurement on the open market. [35515]

**Norman Baker:** As a result of the recommendation for establishing a national strategic stockpile, made by the independent winter resilience review, the Secretary of State for Transport agreed that 250,000 tonnes of rock salt be procured by the Highways Agency in addition to the 60,000 tonnes the agency was planning to use as further reserve stock. Following the severe winter conditions in November 2010, the Secretary of State agreed that the agency should procure an additional 273,500 of strategic salt stock.

The majority of the salt for the strategic stockpile is currently being held at port locations around England. The cost of procuring the salt which includes storage arrangements is estimated to cost in the region of £31 million. The cost of storage beyond the end of the winter season is currently being reviewed.

The Highways Agency which was tasked with facilitating the establishment of the strategic salt stockpile, has worked with its service providers utilising existing contracts to import the salt. Consequently no shortlisting exercise was required. Highways Agency contractors had placed orders with the following salt supply companies:

- Salinity UK;
- Cleveland Potash;
- Salt Union;
- Nationwide Gritting Services;
- Peacocks;
- NW Trading; and
- Azelis Broste.

The costs incurred for the procurement of strategic salt are in line with costs incurred for salt imports over the last two winters and are therefore considered in line with open market rates.

#### Snow and Ice

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what preparation for winter weather his Department made prior to the severe weather of December 2010; [36510]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Met Office on predicted weather conditions for next winter; and what steps his Department is taking to deal with predicted weather conditions. [36511]

**Norman Baker [holding answer 27 January 2011]:** I refer my hon. Friend to the statements made by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), which highlight the actions taken to ensure that going into the winter the UK was in a much more resilient position than in recent years:

Response to the review of the resilience of England's transport systems in winter, written statement 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 78WS;

Response to urgent question on winter weather, 2 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 965;

Severe winter weather, oral statement, 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1216; and

Winter resilience review, written statement, 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 169WS.

The Department for Transport maintains close liaison with the Met Office to pay particular attention to possible impacts of a range of seasonal weather conditions on transport networks. During the period of extreme cold weather in December 2010, a Met Office forecaster was embedded in the Department for Transport to provide dedicated briefings to Ministers and officials, including attending meetings of the Winter Network Group which was set up to monitor salt stock around the country.

In addition we are currently considering advice received from Professor Sir John Beddington on the longer-term implications of the changing climate in relation to winter resilience.

#### Southeastern Trains

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received on the future of the Integrated Kent Franchise; [38286]

(2) what criteria his Department will use to assess Southeastern's performance in relation to any proposed extension of its franchise to 2014. [38290]

**Mrs Villiers:** The franchise contract agreed with Southeastern by the previous administration includes a continuation review. The terms of the franchise provide that if the targets contained in the contract are met by Southeastern, the Department for Transport is obliged to offer the train operator a two-year extension of its franchise to cover the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014.

The franchise continuation criteria for the Southeastern franchise are specified under Schedule 18 of the National Rail Franchise Terms, which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/lser/lsernational.pdf>

The Secretary of State and I have received representations regarding the continuation criteria for the Southeastern franchise and the future specification for the next franchise. When Southeastern's contract is due for renewal, departmental officials will be seeking the views of stakeholders across Kent and South East London in a consultation which will form part of the franchise replacement process.

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much he estimates Southeastern will receive from the public purse in each year of the current franchise agreement; and if he will estimate how much it will receive from the public purse in each year of any extended franchise. [38289]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport published the payment profile for the Integrated Kent franchise at the time of awarding the franchise towards the end of 2005. This profile can be found via the following link:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/franchises/franchisepaymentprofiles>

The Department does not publish further estimates of franchise payments after commencement of franchises. However, the Office of Rail Regulation publishes actual subsidy payments and information on passenger journeys in its National Rail Trends document. This information for 2009-10 can be found on page 64 of the document on the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

<http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/nrt-yearbook-2009-10.pdf>

In addition a copy of Rail Trends is available in the Libraries of the House.

#### Tolls: Lorries

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what (a) costs and (b) benefits of his proposed road pricing scheme for hauliers he has identified; and what estimate he has made of likely annual (i) revenue from (A) foreign and (B) UK based hauliers, (ii) implementation costs and (iii) funds available for a rebate to UK based hauliers. [40427]

**Mike Penning:** The Government are committed to bringing in an HGV road user charge to ensure a fairer arrangement for UK hauliers and end the widespread anomaly whereby UK hauliers pay to use roads abroad, while foreign hauliers do not pay to use UK roads.

We are working to develop a practical and cost-effective scheme that is broadly revenue neutral for UK hauliers. Further details will be announced in due course.

### BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

#### Higher Education

22. **Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on widening access to higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds; and if, he will make a statement. [41363]

**Mr Willetts:** This Government are committed to social mobility. That is why our higher education reforms have no payments up-front, more generous maintenance support and the extension of loans to part-time students. Last week we outlined details of our £150 million National Scholarship Programme and gave updated guidance to the Director of Fair Access about access agreements.

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 4.4 of the Guidance to the Director of Fair Access, whether he has plans to publish the names of individual (a) universities and (b) courses which are to be referred to in access agreements as offering the greatest financial benefit to students. [41148]

**Mr Willetts:** The Government have no plans to compile such a list. Information for each university on previous graduate salaries, together with employment destinations, is one of the items included in the proposed Key Information Set (KIS), which will provide a standard set of 17 items of information for each course, to be made available on university websites. The KIS is based on what students have said they find useful.

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 4.4 of the guidance to the Director of Fair Access, which courses offer the greatest financial benefit to students. [41317]

**Mr Willetts [holding answer 16 February 2011]:** Information on the financial benefits of different courses at broad subject group level is available from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey (LFS). Similar information can be obtained for graduate starting salaries from the Higher Education Statistics Agency's annual Destinations of Leavers from HE (DLHE) survey<sup>1</sup>.

Information for each university on previous graduate salaries, together with employment destinations, is one of the items included in the proposed Key Information Set (KIS), which will provide a standard set of 17 items of information for each course, to be made available on university websites.

<sup>1</sup> Available at

[http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1899&Itemid=239](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1899&Itemid=239)

#### Royal Mail

25. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the future of the inter-business agreement with the Post Office. [41366]

**Mr Davey:** I and my officials have had further discussions with Royal Mail and Post Office Limited regarding the work which will need to be done to separate the two businesses.

The inter-business agreement is a commercial contract to be agreed between the two businesses and the Royal Mail chairman has committed to agree the longest term legally permissible for that contract.

Neither myself nor my officials have been or will be involved in the detailed negotiation of the agreement.

### Apprenticeships

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts there have been in the academic year 2010-11 to date.

[41356]

**Mr Hayes:** It seems that apprenticeships are a popular subject today. And no wonder, as last week was National Apprenticeship Week, which saw over 450 events being held across the country, showcasing the benefits of apprenticeships and the value apprentices bring to organisations and individuals.

Provisional data show that there were 119,800 apprenticeship starts in the first quarter of the 2010/11 academic year (August 2010 to October 2010).

However, we will not have final data for the 2010/11 academic year until November 2011 and provisional participation data cannot be compared against final data from earlier academic years.

### Groceries Supply Code

**Mr Charles Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on establishing a body to monitor and enforce the groceries supply code of practice; and if he will make a statement.

[41428]

**Mr Davey:** The Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill is currently being drafted. The aim is to publish the draft Bill around Easter, allowing time for pre-legislative scrutiny. The Bill will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.

### Small Businesses

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on support for small businesses.

[41446]

**Mr Prisk:** The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills meets regularly with national business representative bodies—such as the British Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors, and the Confederation of British Industry—and with other representatives of business where a wide range of matters are discussed.

### Apprentices

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many new apprenticeship places for those aged (a) 18 to 24 and (b) 16 to 18 years he plans to create in the 2011-12 academic year.

[41085]

**Mr Hayes:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 385W, to his question asking how many apprenticeship places for people aged (a) 16 to 18 years and (b) 18 to 24 years funding has been allocated for in the academic year 2011-12.

Apprenticeships are funded by both the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (19+) and the Department for Education (16-18). The Government are strongly committed to investment in apprenticeships for people of all ages. Funding for apprenticeships will increase to over £1,400 million in the 2011-12 financial year: £799 million for 16 to 18-year-olds; £605 million for those aged 19 and over.<sup>1</sup>

For 16 to 18-year-olds, the Young People's Learning Agency document "16-19 Funding Statement" (December 2010) states that funding will be sufficient to have 133,500 apprentice starts in the 2011/12 academic year. For adults (19 years and over), our indicative forecast is for 227,100 starts in 2011/12<sup>2</sup>. This means we are committed to have funding in place to train over 360,000 apprentices (at all ages) in the 2011/12 academic year.

Funding for adult apprenticeships (19+) is not further differentiated by age and there are no specific allocations for the 18-24 age group.

<sup>1</sup> 16-18 figures: 16-19 Funding Statement, YPLA (December 2010); 19+ figures: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, BIS (November 2010)

<sup>2</sup> *Hansard*

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0004.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0004.htm)

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps is he taking to create more apprenticeship places for those aged (a) 16 to 18 and (b) 18 to 24 years in the 2011-12 academic year.

[41087]

**Mr Hayes:** We are committed to increasing the number and range of apprenticeships on offer for people of all ages. We are determined to take real action to improve and expand the apprenticeships programme and create more apprenticeship opportunities than ever before. That is why we have increased our investment to over £1,400 million in the 2011/12 financial year: £799 million for 16 to 18-year-olds; £605 million for those aged 19 and over.<sup>1</sup>

For 16 to 18-year-olds, the YPLA document "16-19 Funding Statement" (December 2010) states that funding will be sufficient to have 133,500 apprentice starts in the 2011/12 academic year. For adults (19 years and over), our indicative forecast is for 227,100 starts in 2011/12<sup>2</sup>. This means we are committed to have funding in place to train over 360,000 apprentices (at all ages) in the 2011/12 academic year. This investment in our future will help train the next generation, as well as developing the existing workforce, which is vital to build a modern advanced economy.

The National Apprenticeships Service (NAS) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) are working with training providers and encouraging employers to make these places available. Last week was Apprenticeship Week in England, which saw over 500 events taking place across the country to celebrate apprenticeships and promote the benefits of apprenticeships to both employers and learners. NAS is also running a marketing campaign, focussed on medium and large employers, contacting thousands of large private and public sector employers to promote the benefits of apprenticeships to their business.



We are also working to make it easier for businesses to take on apprentices and access the benefits they bring. We are working to reduce bureaucracy and making the system simpler for employers, colleges, and learners alike and we are considering how we might better support employers to access the benefits of the programme.

<sup>1</sup> 16-18 figures: 16-19 Funding Statement, YPLA (December 2010); 19+ figures: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, BIS (November 2010).

<sup>2</sup> Hansard:

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0004.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110125/text/110125w0004.htm)

### Defence Equipment: Exports

**Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which countries the exports of defence equipment has been supported by the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation in the last three years. [38052]

**Mr Prisk:** In the last three years, the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation has provided a range of support on behalf of UK defence and security companies marketing defence and security goods and services in relation to the following overseas markets:

Algeria  
Angola  
Argentina  
Austria  
Australia  
Bahrain  
Bangladesh  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Belgium  
Botswana  
Brunei  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Chile  
China and Special Administrative Region Hong Kong  
Colombia  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Estonia  
Egypt  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
India  
Indonesia  
Iraq  
Israel  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Jordan

Kazakhstan  
Republic of Korea  
Kuwait  
Latvia  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Macedonia  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Nigeria  
Norway  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Peru  
Poland  
Portugal  
Qatar  
Romania  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Serbia  
Singapore  
South Africa  
Spain  
Switzerland  
Sweden  
Taiwan  
Thailand  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
United Arab Emirates  
United States of America  
Venezuela  
Vietnam.

### Business Investment Scheme

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on support for private sector jobs in (a) Easington constituency and (b) the North East of the end of the grant for business investment scheme. [41468]

**Mr Prisk:** We announced a new approach to local growth in the Local Growth White Paper (Cm 7961) presented to Parliament on 28 October 2010. This will

- (a) shift power to local businesses and communities;
- (b) create the right conditions for growth and prosperity by promoting efficient and dynamic markets and
- (c) support focused investment that will have a long-term impact on growth.

This fundamental re-thinking of local growth includes the regional growth fund (RGF). While the RGF has different objectives and criteria to the grant for business investment (GBI) scheme (which is now considering applications on an exceptional basis only), it is much

larger—it has £1.4 billion over three years at its disposal compared to total GBI expenditure of £54 million in 2009/10—and is focused to support those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector to make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth.

Sound projects and programmes that create sustainable private sector jobs in Easington and the North East can apply to the RGF.

Overall, the changes we have introduced will improve support for private sector job creation in those areas.

#### Business: Energy

**Oliver Colville:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) records the number of energy contracts mis-sold to small and medium-sized enterprises by third party intermediaries; and how many complaints the OFT has received from small and medium-sized enterprises on such mis-selling in the latest period for which figures are available. [41171]

**Mr Davey:** The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) does not record the number of energy contracts mis-sold to small and medium sized enterprises by third party intermediaries. However, the number of allegations about such mis-selling by third party intermediaries brought to the OFT's attention and recorded by Consumer Direct is 13 over the 12 month period 1 December 2009 to 30 November 2010.

**Oliver Colville:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will direct the Office of Fair Trading to use the powers available to it under the Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations 2008 in respect of action against third party energy intermediaries that mis-sell energy contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises. [41584]

**Mr Davey:** The OFT's Consumer Markets Group has considered whether to take action on this issue under the Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations 2008. Although the OFT has not taken action to date, it is interested in receiving evidence to enable it to assess whether the problem is widespread. Anyone with evidence should contact the OFT.

#### Business: Rural Areas

**Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to provide incentives to contractors to promote business support in rural areas. [40740]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department does not envisage providing any specific incentives to contractors to promote business support in rural areas.

Businesses will be able to access:

Online business information and tools tailored to each business' needs, through improvements to the:

[www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

website or for those who cannot access the information they need on the web or who are not connected to the internet, a national contact centre;

A network of at least 40,000 experienced business mentors offering practical advice to existing businesses and people who want to start a business;

International trade development support provided by UKTI;

The Manufacturing Advisory Service; and

Business Coaching for Growth targeted at agglomerations of businesses with high growth potential.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), including those covering rural areas, may also seek to provide additional support to their local businesses.

#### Climate Change Projects Office: Greater London

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in (a) the London Borough of Bexley and (b) Greater London who have received advice and support from the Climate Change Projects Office in each year since its inception. [40949]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department does not keep statistics to this level of detail, but during the last financial year (2009/10) the Climate Change Projects Office provided advice and support to more than 120 companies, some of whom were based in London.

#### Community Interest Companies

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Community Interest Companies were registered in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 years. [41237]

**Mr Davey:** Community Interest Companies (CICS) were established in 2005. Neither Companies House nor the CICS Regulator's Office holds any information on them broken down by parliamentary constituencies.

#### Debts: Advisory Services

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what initiatives he has for the promotion of free and impartial debt advice. [41119]

**Mr Davey:** The Government are committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

The Government announced on 12 February that a further £27 million will be made available in 2011/12 to support face-to-face debt advice provided by the Citizens Advice Bureaux and other independent advice agencies across England and Wales.

This Department will also continue to support the National Debtline, a telephone advice service by providing funding of £1 million in 2011-12.

#### Fair Access

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which persons and organisations responded to his Department's consultation on the draft guidance to the Director of Fair Access issued in December 2010; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of those responses. [41316]

**Mr Willetts** [*holding answer 16 February 2011*]: We published a draft version of our guidance to the Director of Fair Access on 7 December 2010, inviting comments. A number of organisations and individuals commented, formally and informally, and we took all views into account in taking our decisions about the contents of the final guidance letter. We have no plans to publish the comments made.

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the final guidance issued to the Director of Fair Access does not include the contents of paragraph 6.1 in the draft guidance. [41319]

**Mr Willetts** [*holding answer 16 February 2011*]: Paragraph 6.1 was unnecessary as it provided no new information.

### Fossil Fuels

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition of dirty fossil fuel energy production his Department uses. [40838]

**Mr Davey:** The definition used by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is that dirty fossil fuel power generation means unabated coal-fired power stations.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on collaboration between schools and universities on outreach work; and what steps have been taken as a result of such discussions. [41125]

**Mr Willetts:** These matters are regularly discussed. Most recently, the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills, the Secretary of State for Education and I met my right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) to discuss his role as advocate for access to education. He will work with the Government to support their goal of increasing participation in further and higher education by those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to provide information to university applicants on the performance of individual institutions against the access performance indicators identified in paragraph 6 of the Guidance to the Director of Fair Access. [41151]

**Mr Willetts:** We expect all universities to improve the quality of information that they provide to prospective students. The access performance indicators show the performance of individual institutions against different benchmarks. They are published annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency on its website, and we expect that this will continue.

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to publish contextual data used by universities following

the Guidance to the Director of Fair Access at the level of individual (a) universities and (b) courses. [41152]

**Mr Willetts:** We have no plans to publish the contextual data used by universities. Universities are responsible for their own admissions policies and decisions. Whether to use such information is up to each university, as they will be best placed to decide on the information that will help to identify the candidates with the talent and potential to succeed at that institution or on a particular course. The Government believe that the use of such data is a valid and appropriate way for institutions to broaden access while maintaining excellence, so long as individuals are considered on their merits, and institutions' procedures are fair, transparent and evidence-based.

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consultation he carried out prior to issuing his Department's Guidance to the Director of Fair Access, February 2011; which organisations participated in his consultation; and whether he plans to publish the outcome of the consultation. [41153]

**Mr Willetts:** We published a draft version of our guidance to the Director of Fair Access on 7 December, inviting comments. A number of organisations and individuals commented, formally and informally, and we took all views into account in taking our decisions about the contents of the final guidance letter. We have no plans to publish the comments made.

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to make access agreements for individual universities known to potential applicants to those universities. [41154]

**Mr Willetts:** All agreed access agreements are publicly available on the website of the Office for Fair Access. We would expect all universities to ensure that potential applicants were made aware of the details of any access agreement that might affect them, such as possible fee waivers.

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the low participation neighbourhoods referred to in paragraph 6 of the Guidance to the Director of Fair Access, February 2011 are. [41155]

**Mr Willetts:** One of the access indicators published as part of the "Performance Indicators in Higher Education" by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) covers the proportion of students from low participation neighbourhoods (LPNs).

The LPN indicator has been produced using POLAR2 (Participation of Local Areas). This method is based on the HE participation rates of people who were aged 18 between 2000 and 2004 and entered a HE course in a UK higher education institution or GB further education college, aged 18 or 19, between academic years 2000/01 and 2005/06. It draws on data provided by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, the Learning and Skills Council, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, the other UK funding bodies and HM Revenue and Customs.



The POLAR2 classification is formed by ranking 2001 Census Area Statistics wards by their young participation rates for the combined 2000 to 2004 cohorts. This gives five young participation quintile groups of areas ordered from '1' (those wards with the lowest participation) to '5' (those wards with the highest participation), each representing 20% of UK young cohort. Students have been allocated to the neighbourhoods on the basis of their postcode. Those students whose postcode falls within wards with the lowest participation (quintile 1) are denoted as being from a low participation neighbourhood. The names of the wards and their corresponding local authority district in England and Wales classified as low participation neighbourhoods will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount spent by each university on outreach activities in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the level of such spending in each of the next five years. [41156]

**Mr Willetts:** Each university decides for itself how much to invest in outreach activities, and will do so in future. The director of Fair Access, in his annual report<sup>1</sup>, shows how much each institution is currently spending on outreach under their access agreements, and this information will continue to be publicly available. Neither the Department nor the director seeks to record all university outreach expenditure.

<sup>1</sup> The last annual report "Office for Fair Access Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10" was published in June 2010.

#### Local Enterprise Partnerships

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 832W, on local enterprise partnerships, what successor bodies other than local enterprise partnerships may be established to take on the functions of regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [41471]

**Mr Prisk:** Plans for the future of the functions currently carried out by the regional development agencies are still to be finalised. Some functions will pass to central Government Departments and other existing public bodies; other functions will be wound down. Consideration is still being given to arrangements for managing residuary RDA assets and liabilities. In London, the London Development Agency will be folded into the Greater London Authority and it will be for the Mayor to decide how to take forward his priorities for economic development.

#### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he (1) expects to transfer staff from his Whitehall offices to his Department's new regional offices; and whether he expects to recruit staff of regional offices locally; [41262]

(2) plans to have discussions with the heads of regional development agencies on the potential for transfer of their staff to his Department's new regional offices. [41263]

**Mr Prisk:** Staff have been recruited from the Government offices for the regions in a process agreed by Departments and the relevant trade unions. Officials have held discussions with the heads of the regional development agencies and the transfer of staff from the regional development agencies is expected to follow Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations principles.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of staff who will be employed in his Department's new regional offices in 2011-12. [41264]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department is aiming to establish six local offices, each with approximately eight staff.

#### Money Lenders

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to protect the public against unscrupulous loan sharks. [41035]

**Mr Davey:** Since 2004 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has provided funding of more than £21 million to fund specialist regional teams across the country to tackle the problem of those lenders who operate without a licence.

To date, the teams have helped more than 16,000 victims, written off £37 million of illegal debt and secured over 180 convictions with sentences totalling 70 years.

On 29 December 2010, the Government announced further funding to continue the Illegal Money Lending Project throughout 2011/12 to protect vulnerable individuals and families across the country against the dangers of loan sharks.

#### National Regional Development Agency Transition Programme Board

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the plans submitted to the National Regional Development Agency Transition Programme Board by each regional development agency on the future of the assets they hold. [41312]

**Mr Prisk [holding answer 16 February 2011]:** The regional development agencies (RDAs) submitted detailed assets and liabilities plans to BIS on 31 January. These plans are currently being scrutinised and assets will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Owing to the anticipated market and commercial sensitivity of the RDA asset disposal plans, and the desire to achieve best value for the taxpayer, it is not expected that they will be made publicly available at the present time. However, it will be up to the RDAs themselves to decide whether and how to publish their assets and liabilities plans, taking into account the sensitivity of any of the information they may contain.

The general principles upon which decisions on the disposal of RDA assets and liabilities will be made have already been set out in the Local Growth White Paper and repeated in a statement sent to the Libraries of the House on 10 February 2010 and which can be found at:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/englands-regional-development-agencies/assets/statement-on-rda-assets-and-liabilities>

### New Businesses: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage small business start-ups in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. [39933]

**Mr Prisk:** Business Link in London (BLIL), funded by the London Development Agency (LDA), supports small business start-ups across London, including the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. BLIL offers solutions to meet small business needs, including:

Fact sheets, such as, sector specific information, guidance on a range of business matters

On-line tools

Referrals to specific regulatory bodies and other support organisations.

Under current delivery arrangements, BLIL continues to deliver a number of free "Starting A Business" workshops which are held at various venues throughout London.

The Government have announced plans to make it easier to start and grow a business across England, which are set out in our paper "Bigger, Better Business", of 5 January 2011. These will include:

Improving the support aimed at start-ups online through, a dedicated start-up hub within the national Business Link website: [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

Help for start-ups through a tailored package of measures, including an expansion in the planned new enterprise allowance, to help the unemployed become self-employed

A network of at least 40,000 experienced business mentors offering practical advice to existing businesses and people who want to start a business.

I should add that the Government will be working alongside an extensive range of private sector and business support organisations to help start-ups and existing businesses identify and utilise all the support available, both online and offline.

### Older People: Scotland

**Mr Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in Scotland likely to be affected by the end of the default retirement age; and if he will make a statement. [41566]

**Mr Davey:** In removing the default retirement age we are removing a regulation that restricts people's ability to remain in the labour market. Our impact assessment estimates that around 6,000 additional workers are likely to remain in the work force across the UK in the first year. No separate estimate was made for Scotland. The full impact assessment was published on 13 January and is available at:

<http://bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/pl11-634-phasing-out-default-retirement-age-impact-assessment.pdf>

### One North East

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the effects on the economy of the north east of the removal of grants previously provided by One North East. [41741]

**Mr Prisk:** No assessment has been made of the effects on the economy of the north east of the removal of grants previously provided by One North East.

Reorganising the delivery of economic development will ensure a more focussed approach which is not based on regional agencies with arbitrary regional boundaries, a lack of local accountability, and multiple objectives. It will also not be based on unsustainable levels of public spending.

### Patents: EU Action

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made towards the establishment of the EU Patents Court. [40682]

**Mr Davey:** Formal negotiations on a draft agreement for a European Patents Court are currently on hold while an opinion of the European Court of Justice on the compatibility of the draft agreement with the EU Treaty is pending. There is reason to believe that the opinion will be published in early March 2011.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) who will be responsible for decisions arising from recommendations from the National Regional Development Agency Transition Programme Board on the disposal of assets of regional development agencies; [41546]

(2) what plans he has to establish arrangements to facilitate representations from local enterprise boards on the disposal of Regional Development Agency assets in that area. [41547]

**Mr Prisk:** During the preparation of their Assets and Liabilities Plans, regional development agencies (RDAs), liaised with local authorities, local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and other local partners.

Decisions on disposals and transfers, will be made on a case by case basis and remain based on the principles in the 1998 RDA Act, namely to further the economic development and regeneration of RDA's areas.

RDA chief executives, as accounting officers, with the approval of their boards, have responsibility for the disposal of RDA assets and liabilities, and for liaising with LEPs, local partners and other interested parties.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to include local enterprise board representatives on the National Regional Development Agency Transition Programme Board. [41548]

**Mr Prisk:** The National Regional Development Agency (RDA) Transition Programme Board is organised according to Office of Government Commerce 'Managing Successful Programmes' guidelines to ensure effective, streamlined decision-making. The board includes the Director of the Economic Development Directorate (EDD) in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Her responsibilities include the development and delivery of policy on local enterprise partnerships, working jointly

with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), who are also represented on the National RDA Transition Programme Board.

The board provides direction and challenge to the RDA boards, which are responsible for delivering an orderly closure and transition of their respective agencies. The RDA boards include representatives of local authorities some of whom are also members of local enterprise partnerships.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria the National RDA Transition Programme Board will use to decide whether regional development agency assets will be transferred to local enterprise partnerships. [41575]

**Mr Prisk:** The transfer or disposal of assets and liabilities will be undertaken in accordance with the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998 until new legislation comes into force. The approach to be adopted will follow that set out in the Local Growth White Paper [CM7961] and the statement made on 10 February, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what liaison his Department's new regional offices will have with regional development agency offices while the latter remain in existence. [41265]

**Mr Prisk:** This Department is working to achieve a smooth transition to RDA closure and the Department's new local offices will have an important role in helping to co-ordinate this process.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the National Regional Development Agency (RDA) Transition Programme Board is scheduled to meet to consider future options for the assets held by the RDAs. [41266]

**Mr Prisk:** The RDAs put forward their own plans for the disposal of assets and liabilities at the end of January 2011. These will be reviewed by the National RDA Transition Programme Board and agreed by the RDAs' own boards. The National RDA Transition Programme Board will meet four times to consider RDA's plans for their assets and liabilities. Its consideration will be supported by detailed analysis carried out by a group with appropriate expertise which includes members from BIS, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Treasury. This will allow the systematic disposal of RDA assets and liabilities to begin in or around April 2011.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consultation he had with stakeholders prior to the creation of the National Regional Development Agency Transition Programme Board. [41269]

**Mr Prisk:** The creation of the National Regional Development Agency (RDA) Transition Programme Board was carried out in consultation with the RDA network and with Government Departments responsible for funding the RDAs.

The board is organised according to Office of Government Commerce "Managing Successful Programmes" guidelines to ensure effective, streamlined decision-making. It will provide direction and challenge to the RDA boards, which are responsible for delivering an orderly closure and transition of their respective RDAs.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how the area covered by the South East Economic Development Agency will be represented on the National Regional Development Agency Transition Programme Board. [41270]

**Mr Prisk:** This response assumes that the question refers to the South East England Development Agency. The network of regional development agencies (RDAs), including South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), is represented on the National RDA Transition Programme Board by three RDA representatives selected by the RDA chief executives themselves.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role his Department's new regional offices will have in advising the National Regional Development Agency Transition Board on the disposal of assets held by regional development agencies. [41315]

**Mr Prisk [holding answer 16 February 2011]:** All regional development agencies have submitted transition plans which we are currently reviewing.

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blackpool South (Mr Marsden) of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 216W, on regional government, if he will publish the responses to the consultation that he held with business organisations and local enterprise partnerships on the need for his Department to have presence outside of Whitehall. [41434]

**Mr Prisk:** Support for the BIS local offices has been expressed during informal discussions between the Department, business organisations and local enterprise partnerships.

#### Regional Growth Fund

**Mr Nicholas Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pooled bids he has received for funds from the Regional Growth Fund. [40722]

**Mr Prisk:** The deadline for round one Regional Growth Fund applications closed on 21 January. More than 450 applications have been received and are now being assessed by the Independent Advisory Panel chaired by my noble Friend Lord Heseltine.

We do not have the information on the numbers of pooled bids at the moment as the large volume of bids are being appraised. We are aiming to publish the breakdown of bids shortly and details will be available on the BIS website at:

[www.bis.gov.uk/RGF](http://www.bis.gov.uk/RGF)



### Students

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many student places his Department funded in 2009-10; how much such places it plans to fund in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [41606]

**Mr Willetts:** We made available an additional 10,000 places in 2010/11. The grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) issued on 20 December 2010 explained that the number of entrants to higher education in 2011/12 should be maintained at the levels in the previous year. Despite the overriding need to address the deficit we expect the number of places to be broadly maintained at those levels for the duration of the spending review period.

### Students: Scotland

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 155W, on students: finance, what the outcome was of his recent discussions with the Scottish Government on its ability to set its own threshold for Scottish students borrowing with the Student Loans Company. [40869]

**Mr Willetts:** I met with members of the Scottish Government on 10 February 2010. We discussed a range of issues relating to student finance.

The Scottish Government are aware that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is currently able to operate only one threshold across the United Kingdom. We have, however, recently reached agreement with HMRC that they will operate two thresholds from 6 April 2016—the existing £15,000 threshold and a new threshold of £21,000.

### Trade Promotion

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which countries his Department has identified as potential high growth markets for UK businesses; and what steps he is taking to promote the interests of UK business in these countries. [40684]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has identified and is targeting 17 key high growth markets, based on their potential for growth and other criteria such as their market match and scope for UKTI help.

The 17 UKTI high growth markets are: Brazil, China (including Hong Kong), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam.

Of the 23,600 UK businesses that UKTI helped in 2009/10, nearly 40% were seeking help in regards to these high growth markets.

UKTI is already responding to this demand for help by: ensuring there are targeted services and advice available for businesses considering these markets; raising greater awareness amongst UK business of these markets drawing on our expertise here and in our overseas network; communicating to businesses the specific opportunities in them; and campaigning for better access in these countries for UK companies.

In addition to this, senior Ministers are actively engaging with overseas Governments in these markets. For instance, the Prime Minister has already visited India and China and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has visited Brazil, Russia, India and China.

The Trade and Investment White Paper published on 9 February 2011, says that UKTI will increase this focus on high growth markets. The new UKTI strategy, due to be published later this year, will set out how we will enhance our focus on these markets while maintaining strong support in developed markets, whose opportunities for UK business should not be overlooked.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Females

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) of 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 816W, on Afghanistan: females, what projects his Department is funding in Afghanistan with the aim of increasing women's empowerment; what the names are of such projects; when each began; and how much each has received from his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [40661]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has worked with other Departments within the Government to support various projects in Afghanistan with the aim of increasing women's empowerment.

The FCO has provided funding of £200,000 from the Conflict Prevention Pool for a "Gender and Political Empowerment" project to support female Afghan parliamentary candidates and MPs during 2010-11.

Since February 2008, the Government have provided a monthly grant of \$4,660 to the Independent Commission for Women's and Children's Rights, which works to further the rights of women and children in Helmand. Over 2010 and 2011, the UK Government have provided £5,000 to help develop women's networks across Afghanistan.

Between 2009 and 2011, the Government provided \$28.5 million to the United Nations Development Programme's "Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow" project, which has helped provide technical support for Afghan electoral institutions, including the Afghan Independent Election Commission's (IEC) gender unit.

UK police officers are providing training to 16 female Afghan police officers in Helmand Province at their own training facility at the Provincial headquarters.

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure in real terms on (a) counter-narcotics and (b) rule of law programmes in Afghanistan in each year from 2000-01 to 2011-12. [40129]

**Mr Hague:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funding for counter-narcotics and rule of law work in Afghanistan currently comes from two sources: Conflict Pool (funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence); and the Strategic Programme Fund.

Spend from both these sources was:

| <i>Counter narcotics</i> |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
|                          | £ million |
| 2010-11                  | 25.6      |
| 2009-10                  | 24.5      |
| 2008-09                  | 49.1      |
| <i>Rule of Law</i>       |           |
|                          | £ million |
| 2010-11                  | 19.2      |
| 2009-10                  | 28.1      |
| 2008-09                  | 18.8      |

Spending on counter-narcotics and rule of law programmes in Afghanistan has fluctuated as projects have evolved. The UK will continue to provide support to both counter-narcotics and wider rule of law activity in Afghanistan.

Expenditure for 2004 to 2008 was part of counter-terrorism and migration funding. Expenditure prior to 2004 was a part of the Drugs and Crime Fund. We are unable to disaggregate or make comparisons without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on human rights and democracy programmes in Afghanistan in real terms in each year from 2005-06 to 2011-12. [40206]

**Mr Hague:** Funding for human rights and democracy work in Afghanistan is currently from two sources: Conflict Pool (funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence); and the Strategic Programme Fund. This expenditure was as follows:

|         | £           |
|---------|-------------|
| 2010-11 | 5.5 million |
| 2009-10 | 5.5 million |
| 2008-09 | 328,000     |

The increase in expenditure in 2009-10 reflects a re-prioritisation of projects and the increase of provisional governance programmes in Helmand Province. Expenditure has included support to Afghan human rights organisations and democracy programmes at national and sub-national level, including in relation to elections. Funding plans for 2011-12 are not yet final. The FCO will continue to provide support for human rights and democracy in Afghanistan as a key part of the Government's work to support and improve governance in Afghanistan. Expenditure for the period 2005 to 2008 was included in Global Conflict Prevention Pool funding and we are unable to disaggregate these figures or make comparisons without incurring disproportionate cost.

## BBC External Services: Finance

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between his Department and the (a) BBC World Service Trust and (b) Director-General of the BBC relating to recent decisions on funding for the BBC World Service. [40121]

**Mr Hague:** I placed copies of my correspondence with Sir Michael Lyons, chair of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Trust, in the Library of the House on 26 January 2011 as attachments to my written ministerial statement of the same date.

I have had no correspondence with the director-general of the BBC on this topic, although we have discussed the subject.

I am also placing in the House a copy of the letter of 20 October 2010 from the Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Peter Horrocks, the director of the BBC World Service, which sets out the settlement for the BBC World Service's funding until it transfers to the licence fee in 2014-15.

## Colombia: Human Rights

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with his Colombian counterpart the issue of the safety of (a) human rights activists and (b) trade unionists during his visit to Colombia. [41640]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I regret that my visit to Colombia has been postponed due to parliamentary business. I hope to reschedule it for later this year.

We welcome President Santos' commitment to tackle human rights issues and the Colombian Government's public recognition that civil society, and specifically human rights defenders—including trades unionists—have a vital role to play in overcoming the challenges that exist. The safety of these groups remains of great concern. We regularly raise this issue with the Colombian Government and shall continue to do so, including when I am next in Colombia.

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with his Colombian counterpart the cases of David Ravelo Crespo and Carolina Rubio during his visit to Colombia. [41641]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I regret that my visit to Colombia has been postponed due to parliamentary business. I hope to reschedule it for later this year. When I return to Colombia I shall take the opportunity to raise our concerns about the situation of human rights defenders there.

Officials at our embassy in Bogotá continue to visit some individuals who are under threat, and make representations to the Colombian authorities in cases of violence or intimidation against members of Colombian civil society.

On 28 September officials from our embassy together with representatives from the French, Dutch, Swedish and German embassies, visited the offices of the

Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDHOS), the Barrancabermeja-based human rights organisation of which Mr Ravelo is Secretary General. They used the visit to discuss security issues and Mr Ravelo's situation. Our ambassador in Bogota met the Head of the Vice President's Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Unit on 18 November where he again raised the case.

At this meeting on 18 November our ambassador also raised the case of Carolina Rubio. On the same day our embassy wrote to the Attorney General's Office about her case. Ms Rubio was released from prison on 19 November, apparently on medical grounds.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's full-time equivalent headcount in each country in (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11 and (c) 2011-12. [40127]

**Mr Hague:** The following table gives the approximate number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employees at each overseas post/office for the fourth quarter of financial year 2010-11. These figures include UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

|                        |                    | Number |                        |                     | Number |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Afghanistan            | Kabul              | 180    | Brazil                 | Brasilia            | 150    |
| Afghanistan            | Lashkar Gah        | 35     | Brazil                 | Rio de Janeiro      | 35     |
| Albania                | Tirana             | 30     | Brazil                 | Sao Paulo           | 80     |
| Algeria                | Algiers            | 50     | British Virgin Islands | Tortola             | 10     |
| Angola                 | Luanda             | 25     | Brunei                 | Bandar Seri Begawan | 25     |
| Anguilla               | Anguilla           | 1      | Bulgaria               | Sofia               | 45     |
| Argentina              | Buenos Aires       | 65     | Burma                  | Rangoon             | 85     |
| Armenia                | Yerevan            | 20     | Cambodia               | Phnom Penh          | 25     |
| Ascension Islands      | Ascension          | 1      | Cameroon               | Yaounde             | 45     |
| Australia              | Brisbane           | 10     | Canada                 | Montreal            | 10     |
| Australia              | Canberra           | 55     | Canada                 | Ottawa              | 55     |
| Australia              | Melbourne          | 15     | Canada                 | Toronto             | 25     |
| Australia              | Perth              | 10     | Canada                 | Vancouver           | 20     |
| Australia              | Sydney             | 30     | Canada                 | Calgary             | 1      |
| Austria                | Vienna (embassy)   | 55     | Cayman Islands         | Grand Cayman        | 1      |
| Austria                | Vienna (OSCE)      | 15     | Chile                  | Santiago            | 55     |
| Austria                | Vienna (UN)        | 10     | China                  | Beijing             | 190    |
| Azerbaijan             | Baku               | 45     | China                  | Chongqing           | 35     |
| Bahrain                | Bahrain            | 45     | China                  | Guangzhou           | 60     |
| Bangladesh             | Dhaka              | 230    | China                  | Shanghai            | 60     |
| Bangladesh             | Sylhet             | 1      | Colombia               | Bogota              | 80     |
| Barbados               | Bridgetown         | 40     | Costa Rica             | San Jose            | 20     |
| Belarus                | Minsk              | 20     | Croatia                | Zagreb              | 30     |
| Belgium                | Brussels (embassy) | 65     | Cuba                   | Havana              | 50     |
| Belgium                | Brussels (NATO)    | 35     | Cyprus                 | Nicosia             | 65     |
| Belgium                | Brussels (EU)      | 130    | Czech Republic         | Prague              | 55     |
| Belize                 | Belmopan           | 30     | D R Congo              | Kinshasa            | 80     |
| Bermuda                | Hamilton           | 1      | Denmark                | Copenhagen          | 45     |
| Bolivia                | La Paz             | 25     | Dominica               | Santo Domingo       | 20     |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Sarajevo           | 35     | Ecuador                | Quito               | 20     |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Banja Luka         | 1      | Egypt                  | Alexandria          | 20     |
| Botswana               | Gaborone           | 15     | Egypt                  | Cairo               | 120    |
|                        |                    |        | Eritrea                | Asmara              | 15     |
|                        |                    |        | Estonia                | Tallinn             | 30     |
|                        |                    |        | Ethiopia               | Addis Ababa         | 150    |
|                        |                    |        | Falkland Islands       | Stanley             | 1      |
|                        |                    |        | Fiji                   | Suva                | 20     |
|                        |                    |        | Finland                | Helsinki            | 45     |
|                        |                    |        | France                 | Bordeaux            | 10     |
|                        |                    |        | France                 | Lille               | 15     |
|                        |                    |        | France                 | Lyon                | 15     |
|                        |                    |        | France                 | Paris (embassy)     | 180    |
|                        |                    |        | France                 | Paris (OECD)        | 15     |
|                        |                    |        | France                 | Strasbourg (CoE)    | 10     |
|                        |                    |        | France                 | Marseille           | 1      |
|                        |                    |        | Gambia                 | Banjul              | 65     |
|                        |                    |        | Georgia                | Tbilisi             | 45     |
|                        |                    |        | Germany                | Berlin              | 110    |
|                        |                    |        | Germany                | Dusseldorf          | 60     |
|                        |                    |        | Germany                | Munich              | 25     |
|                        |                    |        | Ghana                  | Accra               | 280    |
|                        |                    |        | Gibraltar              | Gibraltar           | 20     |
|                        |                    |        | Greece                 | Athens              | 75     |
|                        |                    |        | Greece                 | Corfu               | 1      |
|                        |                    |        | Greece                 | Heraklion           | 1      |
|                        |                    |        | Greece                 | Rhodes              | 1      |
|                        |                    |        | Greece                 | Zakynthos           | 1      |
|                        |                    |        | Guatemala              | Guatemala City      | 25     |
|                        |                    |        | Guinea                 | Conakry             | 10     |
|                        |                    |        | Guyana                 | Georgetown          | 15     |
|                        |                    |        | Hong Kong SAR          | Hong Kong           | 100    |



|             |              | Number |                     |                            | Number |
|-------------|--------------|--------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Hungary     | Budapest     | 55     | Norway              | Oslo                       | 40     |
| Iceland     | Reykjavik    | 15     | Oman                | Muscat                     | 60     |
| India       | Bangalore    | 20     | Pakistan            | Islamabad                  | 310    |
| India       | Chennai      | 55     | Pakistan            | Karachi                    | 80     |
| India       | Kolkata      | 35     | Panama              | Panama City                | 20     |
| India       | Mumbai       | 130    | Papua New Guinea    | Port Moresby               | 20     |
| India       | New Delhi    | 380    | Peru                | Lima                       | 45     |
| India       | Hyderabad    | 1      | Philippines         | Manila                     | 60     |
| Indonesia   | Jakarta      | 90     | Pitcairn Islands    | Pitcairn                   | 1      |
| Iran        | Tehran       | 120    | Poland              | Warsaw                     | 75     |
| Iraq        | Baghdad      | 65     | Portugal            | Lisbon                     | 50     |
| Iraq        | Erbil        | 10     | Portugal            | Portimao                   | 1      |
| Iraq        | Basra        | 1      | Qatar               | Doha                       | 30     |
| Ireland     | Dublin       | 45     | Romania             | Bucharest                  | 55     |
| Israel      | Jerusalem    | 55     | Russia              | Moscow                     | 170    |
| Israel      | Tel Aviv     | 65     | Russia              | St Petersburg              | 25     |
| Italy       | Florence     | 10     | Russia              | Yekaterinburg              | 15     |
| Italy       | Milan        | 35     | Rwanda              | Kigali                     | 30     |
| Italy       | Naples       | 10     | Saudi Arabia        | Al Khobar                  | 15     |
| Italy       | Rome         | 110    | Saudi Arabia        | Jedda                      | 30     |
| Italy       | Venice       | 1      | Saudi Arabia        | Riyadh                     | 110    |
| Ivory Coast | Abidjan      | 1      | Senegal             | Dakar                      | 40     |
| Jamaica     | Kingston     | 60     | Serbia              | Belgrade                   | 70     |
| Japan       | Osaka        | 25     | Seychelles          | Victoria                   | 15     |
| Japan       | Tokyo        | 140    | Sierra Leone        | Freetown                   | 200    |
| Jordan      | Amman        | 100    | Singapore           | Singapore                  | 90     |
| Kazakhstan  | Almaty       | 10     | Slovakia            | Bratislava                 | 25     |
| Kazakhstan  | Astana       | 30     | Slovenia            | Ljubljana                  | 20     |
| Kenya       | Nairobi      | 150    | Solomon Islands     | Honiara                    | 15     |
| Kosovo      | Pristina     | 40     | South Africa        | Cape Town                  | 40     |
| Kuwait      | Kuwait       | 70     | South Africa        | Johannesburg               | 20     |
| Latvia      | Riga         | 30     | South Africa        | Pretoria                   | 160    |
| Lebanon     | Beirut       | 75     | South Korea         | Seoul                      | 80     |
| Liberia     | Monrovia     | 1      | Spain               | Alicante                   | 10     |
| Libya       | Tripoli      | 80     | Spain               | Barcelona                  | 20     |
| Lithuania   | Vilnius      | 35     | Spain               | Madrid                     | 110    |
| Luxembourg  | Luxembourg   | 10     | Spain               | Malaga                     | 15     |
| Macedonia   | Skopje       | 30     | Spain               | Bilbao                     | 1      |
| Madagascar  | Antananarivo | 1      | Spain               | Ibiza                      | 1      |
| Malawi      | Lilongwe     | 35     | Spain               | Las Palmas                 | 1      |
| Malaysia    | Kuala Lumpur | 95     | Spain               | Palma                      | 1      |
| Malta       | Valletta     | 25     | Sri Lanka           | Colombo                    | 80     |
| Mauritius   | Port Louis   | 20     | St Helena           | Jamestown                  | 1      |
| Mexico      | Mexico City  | 110    | St Helena           | Tristan da Cunha           | 1      |
| Mexico      | Guadalajara  | 1      | St Lucia            | Castries                   | 1      |
| Mexico      | Monterrey    | 1      | Sudan               | Khartoum                   | 250    |
| Moldova     | Chisinau     | 30     | Sudan               | Juba                       | 1      |
| Mongolia    | Ulaanbaatar  | 15     | Sweden              | Stockholm                  | 50     |
| Montenegro  | Podgorica    | 10     | Switzerland         | Berne                      | 35     |
| Morocco     | Casablanca   | 20     | Switzerland         | Geneva (consulate general) | 10     |
| Morocco     | Rabat        | 80     | Switzerland         | Geneva (UN)                | 45     |
| Morocco     | Tangier      | 1      | Syria               | Damascus                   | 35     |
| Mozambique  | Maputo       | 30     | Taiwan              | Taipei                     | 50     |
| Namibia     | Windhoek     | 25     | Tajikistan          | Dushanbe                   | 40     |
| Nepal       | Kathmandu    | 110    | Tanzania            | Dares Salaam               | 40     |
| Netherlands | Amsterdam    | 10     | Thailand            | Bangkok                    | 130    |
| Netherlands | The Hague    | 60     | Trinidad and Tobago | Port of Spain              | 30     |
| New Zealand | Auckland     | 10     | Tunisia             | Tunis                      | 55     |
| New Zealand | Wellington   | 60     | Turkey              | Ankara                     | 120    |
| Nigeria     | Abuja        | 220    | Turkey              | Istanbul                   | 90     |
| Nigeria     | Lagos        | 250    | Turkmenistan        | Ashgabat                   | 10     |
| North Korea | Pyongyang    | 10     |                     |                            |        |

|                          |                                 | Number |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Turks and Caicos Islands | Grand Turk                      | 10     |
| Uganda                   | Kampala                         | 60     |
| Ukraine                  | Kiev                            | 50     |
| United Arab Emirates     | Abu Dhabi                       | 80     |
| United Arab Emirates     | Dubai                           | 110    |
| Uruguay                  | Montevideo                      | 20     |
| USA                      | Atlanta                         | 10     |
| USA                      | Boston                          | 25     |
| USA                      | Chicago                         | 30     |
| USA                      | Houston                         | 25     |
| USA                      | Los Angeles                     | 35     |
| USA                      | Miami                           | 15     |
| USA                      | New York<br>(consulate general) | 55     |
| USA                      | New York (UN)                   | 90     |
| USA                      | San Francisco                   | 35     |
| USA                      | Washington                      | 250    |
| USA                      | Denver                          | 1      |
| USA                      | Orlando                         | 1      |
| USA                      | Plymouth                        | 1      |
| Uzbekistan               | Tashkent                        | 30     |
| Vatican                  | Holy See                        | 10     |
| Venezuela                | Caracas                         | 45     |
| Vietnam                  | Hanoi                           | 40     |
| Vietnam                  | Ho Chi Minh                     | 25     |
| Yemen                    | Sana'a                          | 140    |
| Zambia                   | Lusaka                          | 30     |
| Zimbabwe                 | Harare                          | 70     |

<sup>1</sup> 5 or fewer.

Note:

Posts with fewer than 100 staff are rounded up to the nearest 5 and those with 100 or more are rounded up to the nearest 10.

We do not hold a comparable list for financial year 2009-10. Staffing at posts is kept under constant review so it is not possible to give numbers for future years.

#### Foreign Currency Mechanism

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on establishing a new foreign currency mechanism. [40125]

**Mr Hague:** The key principles for operation of the foreign currency mechanism and transitional measures have been established with the Treasury. Internal work to integrate the mechanism with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's internal financial processes continues.

#### Egypt: Politics and Government

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to assist British citizens without access to finance to return to the UK from Egypt. [40208]

**Mr Hague:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office organised two government-funded charter flights for British nationals on 3 and 5 February 2011. Passengers signed an undertaking to repay the cost of their seat on the flight and were not required to pay in advance.

Commercial money transfer services in Egypt have resumed normal operations. Consular staff in Egypt and London can advise British nationals still in Egypt about how to transfer money through commercial means.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he first received reports of unrest in Egypt. [40209]

**Mr Hague:** Our embassy in Cairo submitted a report on the possible impact on Egypt of events in Tunisia on 16 January 2010. A further report was made on 18 January which highlighted small demonstrations outside the Tunisian embassy as well as a number of self-immolations. A report of mass demonstrations on 25 January was submitted on 26 January.

In addition to these three reports, I received regular up-dates on the political, economic and social conditions in Egypt in the months before the unrest began. Our ambassador also wrote a number of more formal reports over that period. My officials have exchanged information throughout, and continue to do so.

#### Gaza: Imports

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the change in the volume of goods entering the Gaza Strip from Israel since June 2010. [41306]

**Alistair Burt:** As we have said previously, we welcomed Israel's move last July from a restricted list of around 120 items permitted to enter Gaza to a far more permissive list of only prohibited and dual use items. Since then the volume and variety of goods entering Gaza has increased significantly. We believe on average that around 250 truck loads of goods enter Gaza through Kerem Shalom on a daily basis.

However, as we continue to stress to the Israeli Government, including when the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), visited the region on 16-19 January, more needs to be done to effect real changes on the ground. For ordinary Gazans, who cannot afford to buy many of the goods now entering Gaza, that means a revival of the economy and opportunities for employment. It also means getting the basics right in terms of reconstruction of Gaza's housing and infrastructure.

We want to see the approvals process for dual use items for reconstruction projects accelerated and for the extension of the process to include raw materials for manufacturing. While we are encouraged by Israel's December announcement on exports, we need to see this translated into reality. Manufacturing exports destined for Gaza's traditional markets of Israel and the West Bank is the key to reviving the economy, countering radicalisation and bolstering Gaza's pragmatic business fraternity.

#### Gaza: Manpower

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the number of international staff of non-governmental organisations entering and leaving the Gaza Strip. [41303]

**Alistair Burt:** We have made no recent assessment of the number of non-governmental organisation (NGO) staff entering and leaving Gaza. However, we and the Department for International Development have a regular dialogue with the NGO community and we are well apprised of the difficulties they continue to face. We have lobbied the Israeli Government on the issue of access permits and residency visas for international NGO staff. More recently we have been aware of difficulties for some international staff members leaving Gaza through the Rafah crossing. We see little prospects for change in access through Rafah in the short term. British nationals intending to visit Gaza should be aware that we continue to advise against all travel to Gaza.

#### Iran: Human Rights

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to support human rights groups in Iran. [41644]

**Alistair Burt:** The Iranian authorities ban activity by human rights groups in Iran as a means to prevent the regular and abhorrent abuses by the state coming to light. We have called on the Iranian authorities to respect their international obligations including the right to freedom of association. We regularly raise concern over the human rights situation in Iran including individual cases, and hope that our doing so will encourage the Iranian authorities to show restraint towards those in Iran who seek to defend and promote human rights.

#### Israel: Passports

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assurances he has received from the government of Israel since 15 June 2010 on its policy on the misuse of British passports. [41497]

**Alistair Burt:** We have not yet received any formal assurances from the Israeli Government on this issue. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, raised it with the Israeli ambassador to the UK in October 2010. He also raised it during his visit to Israel in November 2010 with Foreign Minister Lieberman. On both occasions he stressed that the misuse of British passports was unacceptable and should not happen again. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv also made this clear to the Israeli Government in November 2010.

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had since 10 June 2010 with the Government of Israel on its policy on the misuse of British passports; what the outcome was; and if he will make a statement; [41498]

(2) what recent representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the misuse of British passports. [41499]

**Alistair Burt:** We have not yet received any formal assurances from the Israeli Government on this issue. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond

(Yorks) (Mr Hague), raised it with the Israeli ambassador to the UK in October 2010. He also raised it during his visit to Israel in November 2010 with Foreign Minister Lieberman. On both occasions he stressed that the misuse of British passports was unacceptable and should not happen again. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv also made this clear to the Israeli Government in November 2010.

I have no plans to make any further statements to Parliament following the oral statement made by the previous Foreign Secretary on 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 133-34.

#### Middle East: International Assistance

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided to aid and promote joint business initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians in 2010; and what proportion of UK aid to Israel and the Palestinian territories in that year this represented. [41289]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has funded a £318,000 project through its Conflict programme: "Investing in Peace through ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Business Co-operation and Capacity Building". This project has led to new business partnerships between Israeli and Palestinian companies. Four business partnerships valued at an estimated \$2 million have already been established and others are in the making. The project has received international praise, winning a nomination for a Global ICT Excellence Award and most recently receiving the Digital Opportunity Award.

UK Trade and Investment have also implemented a programme which supports both the Palestine-Britain Business Council and UK Israel Business.

We are not able to say what percentage of United Kingdom aid to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories this represents.

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with (a) the Palestinian Authority, (b) his Israeli counterpart and (c) his US counterpart on efforts to strengthen the West Bank economy. [41293]

**Alistair Burt:** We have a detailed and ongoing dialogue with the Palestinian Authority about a number of issues related to the Gazan and West Bank economies. We also raise with the Israeli Government our concerns regarding, in particular, the stagnation of the economy in Gaza.

We have made clear, most recently when Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in January 2011, that, while we welcomed Israel's move from a list of permitted goods to a list of banned goods and its December 2010 announcement that it would allow some exports, more needs to be done to bring real changes on the ground. This includes reaching pre-2007 levels of exports by the middle of this year, allowing the import of dual-use raw materials for manufacture, and



ensuring Gaza has access to its traditional markets of Israel and the West Bank. Reviving Gaza's economy is in Israel's interests; it will create jobs, counter radicalisation, provide an alternative to the Hamas-controlled tunnel smuggling economy and bolster Gaza's pragmatic business community.

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with (a) his US counterpart, (b) the Palestinian Authority and (c) his Israeli counterpart on US steps to strengthen the Palestinian Authority security forces. [41296]

**Alistair Burt:** My officials have regular discussions with the US and the Palestinian Authority on Palestinian security sector development. It is important that we do so given our substantial political and financial commitment to developing the Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces. We do so in close co-ordination with the US through the UK's British support team, which provides training for the security sector, for example, in developing leaderships skills and standards of professionalism.

Building the capacity of the PA security forces is vital in helping lay the ground work for a future Palestinian state and a lasting solution to the conflict in the region. It is specifically laid out as a Roadmap obligation and our work is in line with this.

It is on this latter point in particular that we engage the Israeli Government. We are alive to Israel's security concerns and believe that the Palestinian Authority has taken considerable steps to address its Roadmap obligations on security and developing the institutions of state. It is important that Israel now reciprocates, in particular by halting all settlement construction so that negotiations on a two state agreement can resume.

#### **Palestinians: Security Forces**

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided to assist the US Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian territories in the training of Palestinian security forces in (a) 2008, (b) 2009 and (c) 2010. [41297]

**Alistair Burt:** The Tri-Departmental (the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development) Middle East and North Africa Conflict Pool (MENA CP) funds the deployment of the British Support Team in Ramallah, to assist the US Security Co-ordinator in providing technical support and advice on governance, leadership and human rights issues to the Palestinian Security Sector, including the Civil Police, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice. Management of the British Support Team is led by the UK Ministry of Defence.

MENA CP funding per financial year is as follows:

|         | £         |
|---------|-----------|
| 2007-08 | 347,474   |
| 2008-09 | 1,925,610 |
| 2009-10 | 2,690,823 |
| 2010-11 | 2,450,000 |

Final funding for 2010-11 is not confirmed and is based on the provisional allocation. Funding for the 2011-12 financial year has yet to be confirmed, however financial support through the MENA CP will continue for the deployment of the British Support Team.

#### **Thailand: Cambodia**

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on recent events on the Cambodia-Thai border; and if he will make a statement. [41643]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I have been concerned by the outbreak of fighting on the Cambodia-Thai border and deeply regret the loss of life on both sides. The UK has urged both Governments to exercise restraint and to resolve the dispute through peaceful means.

Following a private session on 14 February 2011, the UN Security Council made a press statement expressing its concern. It called on both sides to exercise restraint, to establish a permanent ceasefire and to resolve the situation through effective dialogue. The members of the Security Council expressed support for the active efforts of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and encouraged the parties to continue to co-operate with ASEAN in this regard.

#### **Turkey: EU Enlargement**

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the likely timetable for the accession of Turkey as a full member of the EU; and if he will make a statement. [41504]

**Mr Lidington:** EU accession is a condition-based not time-based process. Turkey's accession is a key goal for the Government, subject to the rigorous application of the accession criteria. We believe that Turkish accession would benefit both the UK and EU, contributing to our security and prosperity. The accession process is challenging and Turkey must meet the criteria and requirements of the EU acquis before it can join the Union.

#### **Western Sahara: Politics and Government**

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent incident at Laayoune/Gdeim Izik and its effect on the 1991 ceasefire agreement in Western Sahara. [41172]

**Alistair Burt:** The Moroccan Parliament conducted and published its own investigation into the events in Laayoune and the Gdeim Izik camp.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch also visited the territory and issued independent reports.

An official from our embassy in Rabat visited Western Sahara in December 2010 and met with a range of Moroccan officials, international bodies, UN agencies and local non-governmental organisations.

We understand that the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations will send a mission to Western Sahara in February 2011 to assess the activities of UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

# Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 15 February 2011

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people commenced an apprenticeship in (a) 1997 and (b) May 2010. [13960]

[Official Report, 9 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 671W.]

*Letter of correction from Mr John Hayes:*

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) on 9 September 2010. The number given for people on apprenticeships in 1996/97 was incorrectly given as 75,000 when it should have been 65,000.

The full answer given was as follows:

**Mr Hayes:** The number of apprenticeships in 1996/97 was 75,000 last published in the Statistical First Release on the 24 October 2002, however these data were calculated on a different basis and therefore may not be directly comparable with later years.

Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for England from 2003/04 to 2008/09. 2003/04 is the earliest year for which comparable data are available and 2008/09 is the latest year for which full-year data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts, 2003/04 to 2008/09

| Academic year | Apprenticeships |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 2003/04       | 193,600         |
| 2004/05       | 189,000         |
| 2005/06       | 175,000         |
| 2006/07       | 184,400         |
| 2007/08       | 224,800         |
| 2008/09       | 239,900         |

*Note:*

All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 24 June 2010

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current)

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr Hayes:** The number of apprenticeships in 1996/97 was 65,000 last published in the Statistical First Release on 24 October 2002, however these data were calculated on a different basis and therefore may not be directly comparable with later years.

Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for England from 2003/04 to 2008/09. 2003/04 is the earliest year for which comparable data are available and 2008/09 is the latest year for which full-year data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts, 2003/04 to 2008/09

| Academic year | Apprenticeships |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 2003/04       | 193,600         |
| 2004/05       | 189,000         |

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts, 2003/04 to 2008/09

| Academic year | Apprenticeships |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 2005/06       | 175,000         |
| 2006/07       | 184,400         |
| 2007/08       | 224,800         |
| 2008/09       | 239,900         |

*Note:*

All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 24 June 2010 at:

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current)

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Fire Safety (Protection of Tenants) Bill

The following is an extract from a response given by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr Sanders) during the Second Reading of the Fire Safety (Protection of Tenants) Bill on 19 November 2010.

**Robert Neill:** The Fire Kills campaign has for some time conducted high-profile campaigns promoting smoke alarms and maintenance messages, which have proved very successful.

The English housing survey 2008, published last month, shows ownership of smoke alarms in all dwellings in England standing at 91%. It is a significant achievement for the Department for Communities and Local Government and the fire and rescue service that nine of every 10 homes have a smoke alarm installed.

[Official Report, 19 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 1237.]

*Letter of correction from Mr Robert Neill:*

An error has been identified in an answer given to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr Sanders) during the Second Reading of the Private Member's Bill—the Fire Safety (Protection of Tenants) Bill—on 19 November 2010.

The figure of 91% given for the proportion of dwellings with smoke alarms has subsequently been revised to 86%.

The correct answer should have been:

**Robert Neill:** The Fire Kills campaign has for some time conducted high-profile campaigns promoting smoke alarms and maintenance messages, which have proved very successful.

The English housing survey 2008, published last month, shows ownership of smoke alarms in all dwellings in England standing at 86%. It is a significant achievement for the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Fire and Rescue Service that almost nine of every 10 homes have a smoke alarm installed.

**TREASURY****Fuel Costs**

*The following is the response given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) relating to a question from the hon. Member for Dundee East (Stewart Hosie) during the debate on Fuel Costs on 7 February 2011.*

**Stewart Hosie:** The hon. Lady has been very generous indeed. She asks us to welcome the actions that the Government have taken in terms of a deficit consolidation plan. I like and respect her, but I will never welcome a £1.3 billion cut to the Scottish budget this year and a £3.2 billion cut to the Scottish block over the next four years. That is the wrong thing to do in terms of stimulating economic growth and growing our way out of the recession. If we could focus on the fuel duty, that would be particularly helpful, unless of course she wants to devolve the duty to Scotland, in which case I would be absolutely delighted as we could take all the right decisions.

**Justine Greening:** I am sure that the hon. Gentleman will be aware of the Goodison review and that the Scotland Bill is passing through Parliament right now. We are making some changes on tax, and I think he will welcome those measures to strengthen the devolution settlement.

*[Official Report, 7 February 2011, Vol. 523, c. 57.]*

*Letter of correction from Ms Justine Greening:*

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Dundee East (Stewart Hosie) during a debate on Fuel Costs on 7 February 2011.

The correct answer should have been:

**Justine Greening:** I am sure that the hon. Gentlemen will be aware of the Calman Commission and that the Scotland Bill is passing through Parliament right now. We are making some changes on tax, and I think he will welcome those measures to strengthen the devolution settlement.



## Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 16 February 2011

### COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Housing: Prices

**Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of domestic dwellings valued at £2 million or higher in each (a) local authority, (b) parliamentary constituency and (c) region.

[39167]

[Official Report, 10 February 2011, Vol. 523, c. 391-92W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Robert Neill:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock) on 10 February 2011.

The full answer given was as follows.

**Robert Neill:** The Department has not made an estimate of the number of domestic dwellings valued at £2 million or higher. This estimate would require figures on the individual value of all domestic dwellings in each area. Such data are not held by the Department. Estimating the current capital value of individual domestic dwellings in each area would require a valuation/revaluation exercise. The Coalition Agreement rules out a domestic revaluation in this Parliament.

The correct answer should have been:

**Robert Neill:** The Department has not made an estimate of the number of domestic dwellings valued at £2 million or higher. This estimate would require figures on the individual value of all domestic dwellings in each area. Such data are not held by the Department. Estimating the current capital value of individual domestic dwellings in each area would require a valuation/revaluation exercise. The Government have ruled out a domestic revaluation in this Parliament, as outlined in the written ministerial statement of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 2WS.